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DAY 2 OF METRO'S LOOK AT FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS: DOES THE NEW ACT GET A PASSING GRADE? **PAGES 12 & 13**



Standing up for women

Over a dozen Canadian cities, including Halifax, call for end to violence against women through vigils for Loretta Saunders **PAGE 4**

Herd's mullet man takes shears to his beautiful locks

Vincent Watt sporting a cleaner playoff look for Mooseheads **PAGE 37**

Explore
new music
first



Ain't spring just grand?



A pedestrian battles the high winds and blowing snow as he walks in downtown Halifax on Wednesday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Midweek storm. Gale-force winds, snow, floods order of day



RUTH DAVENPORT
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The first — and hopefully last — snowstorm of spring 2014 packed a bigger punch than any of the storms to hit Nova Scotia during the winter of 2014.

Wednesday's low-pressure system brought Halifax to a standstill with government offices, schools, retailers, and Metro Transit all eventually shutting down.

By 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, winds gusting up to 80 kilometres per hour in Halifax and up to 130 kilometres per hour along the Atlantic coast had caused a near-record-breaking high tide in Halifax Harbour, swamping some coastal wharves and roads.

"We've reached a total water level in Halifax Harbour around 2.6 metres," said Environment Canada me-

Parking situation

A decision will be made Thursday about whether the overnight winter parking ban will be enforced for a second night.

teorologist Darin Borgel, adding the record high was 2.85 metres, set during Hurricane Juan.

"We're very, very close to having major issues, so it is possible in some other small inlets in the harbour."

The snowfall accumulation at Halifax Stanfield International Airport was 16 centimetres by Wednesday evening, but Borgel said volunteer measurements put the totals between 20 and 30 centimetres in the city.

Most Halifax residents stayed indoors to avoid the punishing blast.

"The problem is, you have snow ... it's pelting your face, like little pellets against your face," said Weather Network video journalist Nathan Coleman, who spent part of the

day reporting from the Halifax waterfront. "So you can stand all covered up, but any piece of your skin that's exposed, it feels like a burning sensation."

Transportation officials said there was virtually no one risking dangerous travel conditions on the roads.

"We are experiencing severe whiteouts," said Department of Transportation representative Barb Baillie during an early afternoon briefing. "(Plow) operators are having to pull over for a few minutes until they can see where they're going."

In HRM, spokesperson Jennifer Stairs said plow operators were having problems with cars parked on the streets, and said they'd been cleared to call for ticketing and towing.

"They go out of their way whenever they can to re-route, ticketing and towing isn't the first thing that they go to," she said. "It comes down to one, safety, and two, they need to get these roads cleared."

More coverage, see page 3



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Flurry of opinions

Thoughts on the snowstorm from around the city

The show-off

"I'm originally from Newfoundland, so this storm is only minor."

HRM resident Zack Taylor

The optimist

"I was driving down Hollis Street and there's nobody around ... it's amazing to see, you've got a fresh coating of snow, everything's looking great. You just have to be able to handle the cold."

Nathan Coleman, VI, The Weather Network

The prepared

"There was enough warning and people have actually heeded those warnings (so) we haven't had the issues that you would have seen with some other storms."

Jennifer Stairs, HRM communications adviser

The pragmatist

"As one supervisor said, (the roads) are passable if you're foolish enough to be out there, to be very honest with you. It's bad."

Barb Baillie, provincial Department of Transportation



A pedestrian runs to get out of the wind at South Park Street and Spring Garden Road as the storm hit the region on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Haligonians embrace Mother Nature's fury

Gift or curse? A few residents revelled in Wednesday's blizzard

KAYLYNN PAYNTER
halifax@metronews.ca

Zack Taylor said Wednesday there was no time like the present to get out and enjoy the weather. Even if that weather was a blizzard.

Taylor was one of the few souls who ventured outside during Wednesday's weather-bomb to face Mother Nature's frozen fury.

"I'm not really going any-

where," said Taylor while gallivanting through town Wednesday afternoon. "I'm just out here enjoying the snow and everything that's going on."

Many crosswalks in Halifax were plugged with snowdrifts caused by brutal winds bashing against the snowbanks left behind from earlier plowing efforts.

While some folks didn't mind trudging along the invisible sidewalks buried beneath a foot of snow, others opted to take the high road, literally, travelling down the middle of the freshly plowed streets to reach their destination. With motorized travel severely hindered by poor visi-

Tuesday to Wednesday

"I took pictures at this time yesterday and I took pictures at this time again today. The difference is crazy."

Michelle Simone

bility, vehicles were few and far between.

Michelle Simone and Caitlin Jackson walked out to Yasmine Grocery on Agricola Street in the North End for last-minute dinner ingredients. The store was one of the few businesses open during the day.

"I'm actually flying out in a few days to escape the rest of this weather," Simone said while waiting outside Yasmine's with a furry friend. "It's a nice send-off."

In Cole Harbour, one of the few to venture outside was Bill Stairs.

"I'll probably have to shovel two or three more times before the end of the day," he said outside his home on Merrimac Drive in the early afternoon.

He thought the forecasters were "pretty dead on," adding this latest storm was "pretty nasty."

"The storm is a little late, but yeah, they got it right," he said.

1 NEWS

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'Everybody fell in love with her'

In memoriam. Loretta Saunders vigils slated for several cities in Canada and beyond

Over a dozen cities across Canada are hosting vigils in honour of Loretta Saunders this Thursday and calling for an end to violence against women.

Carmen Adams, co-organizer of the Halifax event set for Grand Parade at 8 p.m., said people are gathering in 17 places she knows of, including Oslo, Norway.

"That's pretty amazing," Adams said.

There will be drumming and Loretta's sister Delilah Saunders is expected to say a few words during the vigil and play a song.

Loretta Saunders was an Inuk woman from Labrador and a Saint Mary's University student who was found dead off a New Brunswick high-

Locations

Some of the Canadian cities holding vigils include Moncton, Calgary, Thunder Bay, Ottawa and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

way in late February.

Police have charged her roommates Victoria Henneberry and Blake Leggette with first-degree murder, and allege Saunders was killed in their Cowie Hill Road apartment before the couple drove to Ontario where they were arrested.

Saunders was last seen on Feb. 13 and reported missing a few days later. Family and friends came to Halifax to join in the search for the 26-year-old until her case was ruled a homicide on Feb. 26.

Adams said she didn't know Saunders before she disappeared, but her story

impacted her and she helped poster the city with Saunders' photo.

"Everybody fell in love with her immediately," Adams said.

She said the fact that Saunders was researching murdered and missing aboriginal women really hit home for her.

The vigil is also a call to end violence against women — aboriginal women in particular, Adams said. This is "very important" to tie in with Saunders' memory because that was her goal, "that is what we're trying to carry on," she said.

"People are really up in arms. We're not standing for it anymore," Adams said. "We don't know who's next. It could be anybody."

Mayor Mike Savage will raise the Labrador flag on Thursday, and Adams said an Inuk elder is also attending to represent Saunders' culture.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Loretta Saunders' memory will be honoured in several cities this Thursday. CONTRIBUTED

Police arrest 12 at checkpoints for impaired driving throughout province

RCMP say 12 people were arrested and charged with impaired driving at checkpoints across Nova Scotia this weekend.

Officers checked more than 8,700 vehicles on March 22, according to a release from the Mounties.

Strategy

The checkpoints were conducted in support of the National Impaired Driving En-

forcement Strategy launched in December in an effort to end impaired driving.

Twelve people were charged for being impaired

by alcohol and nine more drivers were issued roadside driving suspensions.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson came to Nova Scotia and participated in checkpoints in Lower Sackville and Windsor.

METRO

Downtown. Roads closed after natural gas leak

Police were warning the few drivers out on the snowy roads in Halifax on Wednesday afternoon to avoid the area around Argyle and Lower Water streets due to a natural gas leak.

The area bordered by Argyle, Lower Water, Sackville and George streets was closed

due to the leak at 1645 Granville St. about 4:45 p.m.

The leak was caused when a piece of snow-removal equipment struck a gas line.

Officers and Halifax fire officials were called to the scene and the roads were reopened to traffic by 7 p.m.

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Beware the spruce budworm in Nova Scotia

Softwood sawmills and pulp mills, be wary.

The Department of Natural Resources has observed an increase in the spruce budworm population. It's a pest that has been responsible for a lot of tree mortality in the past, but it's not time to panic yet.

"We've actually upped our sampling intensity so we can get a better handle

on what the population is doing. We figure we're two to five years away from seeing any real damage happen in this province. It's very early. What that does is it allows us some time to prepare, to be proactive in terms of how we're going to manage or deal with the budworm," John Ross, manager of risk services with forest protection at DNR,

says.

The last outbreak was in the mid-1970s, when the budworm was responsible for severe defoliation in 1.2-million hectares of land throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

"What the budworm does is it actually feeds on the needles of the trees. If the trees are eaten quite severely, without the needles, the trees can't survive."

Although they're always in Nova Scotia forests, DNR has noticed the population increasing due to favourable conditions, which occur every 30 to 40 years.

Their preferred food sources, balsam fir, white, red and black spruce trees, are at their peak.

They're also on the rise in New Brunswick and Quebec, Ross says. Quebec has been battling the insect for the past seven years.

Due to early detection, they're hoping to be able to lessen the impact.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS



The Department of Natural Resources has observed an increase in the spruce budworm population. The pest has been responsible for a lot of tree mortality in the past. NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA



The Nova Scotia Legislature is back in session. A looming nurses' strike is expected to top the agenda. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Nurses' dispute set to dominate N.S. legislature

Provincial politics.
Spring session gets underway Thursday

A looming strike by nurses is expected to top the agenda when the Nova Scotia legislature returns Thursday, a week ahead of the Liberal government's first budget.

Premier Stephen McNeil has said the government will ensure patient safety if 2,400 registered nurses employed by Halifax-area hospitals walk off the job, but he hasn't given a clear indication how the province would respond to a walkout.

The nurses, who are represented by the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, are in a legal strike position April 3 — the same day the budget is tabled — but have threatened to strike illegally if the legislation is introduced before then declaring them an essential service.

McNeil has urged the union and the Capital District Health Authority to resume bargaining after mediated talks broke down Sunday. He wouldn't say whether some form of essential services legislation would be introduced Thursday.

Opposition Leader Jamie Baillie said his Progressive Conservatives believe the

Quoted

"There are so many unknowns around what a piece of legislation like that would actually do."

NDP Leader Maureen MacDonald, about any back-to-work legislation

province has to take steps to prevent strikes in the health-care sector and the government should pass legislation requiring "fair and independent" binding arbitration so sides in similar disputes know the end result when agreements can't be reached.

McNeil has already ruled out binding arbitration in the nurses dispute, saying it would be unacceptable for a third party to determine what the province is able to pay.

NDP Leader Maureen MacDonald said the introduction of essential services legislation could slow the business of the house from the start, although she wouldn't say exactly what her party would do.

A month ago, the NDP used stalling tactics to prevent the immediate passage of essential services legislation during a special sitting aimed at ending a strike by 420 home-care workers in Halifax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economic plan

Introducing the Liberal budget

In the early days of the session, the Liberals will also introduce their first budget since the party won a majority government in October. Finance Minister Diana Whalen has warned of a deficit in the 2014-15 budget.

Earlier this month, she said poor economic growth has continued to affect government revenue and that the pressure wasn't expected to ease.

Whalen also said the government was grappling with program costs and with recent wage settlements.

Baillie said the budget represents a big moment for the Liberals.

"They've studied everything under the sun since election day last fall and now it's time to actually make some decisions and govern," he said.

The Liberals forecast a \$481.7-million deficit for 2013-14 in an update released in December.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Consensus sought in lobster levy

Marketing. Fisheries ministers from Maritimes meeting in Halifax

Fisheries ministers from the three Maritime provinces say they're hoping for industry consensus to implement a fee to promote lobsters. The fee would be levied on fishermen, buyers and processors.

The ministers began a two-day meeting Wednesday in Halifax with harvesting and processing groups in an effort to strengthen the struggling lobster industry.

They are discussing a proposed levy of one cent per pound to be paid by fishermen, and another cent per pound to be paid by the onshore side of the industry to do a better job branding the crustacean.

Fisheries Minister Michael Olscamp of New Brunswick said industry agreement with the levy would give the three governments the green light to pass laws and create funding for marketing lobsters.

"It's very important the levy be introduced because of the potential it offers in terms of making this a more efficient industry," Olscamp said. "If we

In favour of

Robert Courtney, president of the North of Smokey Fishermen's Association, said his Cape Breton-based group supports the levy.

- "I doubt anyone will hold out against the levy," Courtney said. "But the first thing that has to happen is a body be put in place and it be accountable to ensure funds are spent in a proper way. ... Don't write a blank cheque."

could have a consensus with the levy or at least a consensus to move forward in an expedient matter, I'd be happy about that."

The levy was an idea recommended last year by a three-member panel that reviewed the lobster industry. The panel estimated it would raise about \$2.5 million a year.

Nova Scotia Fisheries Minister Keith Colwell and his P.E.I. counterpart Ron MacKinley said their governments could simply impose the levy, but they would rather do so with the industry clearly behind it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fishing boats sit loaded with lobster traps in Peggy's Cove in this file photo. Fisheries ministers from the three Maritime provinces say they're hoping for industry consensus to set up a fee that would pay for better branding of lobsters. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Creating government

Progressive Conservatives want province to push regional plan for Pictou County

The Progressive Conservative party is urging the Nova Scotia government to get a group of municipalities

back to the table to continue talks on the creation of a regional government in the Pictou County area.

Karla MacFarlane, the member of the legislature for Pictou West, says the cost of doing nothing is too great for the area.

The government announced Tuesday that it will not contribute funding to a \$150,000 study on the possibility of forming a

By the numbers

\$150K

The provincial government agreed in 2010 to pay up to \$150,000 for the study on the condition that all six councils agreed.

regional government.

Municipal Relations Minister Mark Furey says he made the decision after meetings were held with

the six municipal governments in the county.

Furey says it's clear there is no consensus among the local councils on how to move a plan forward.

The proposed study was originally suggested by the Pictou Chamber of Commerce.

Furey says that the government has backed out of its promise to fund the study. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lucky in London. Ontario man wins second jackpot, this time it's a cool million

Meet Robert McPhail: London, Ont.'s luckiest man, who claimed the second big lottery prize of his life — \$1 million in the March 19 Lotto 6-49 draw.

His first round of luck came in 1992 when he was part of a group of seven that cashed in on \$571,157.

McPhail was picking up a newspaper and some chocolates for his wife at a Shoppers Drug Mart when "something told me to buy a ticket," he said.

McPhail ended up buying

two tickets for the draw.

"I found out about my win when checking my numbers against those posted in the newspaper," he said. "I was in disbelief. I always thought I would win again — I just didn't know when. My family members keep rubbing me for good luck."

McPhail plans to take a trip to the U.K. with his wife and may take his grandchildren on a fishing trip.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.



Robert McPhail of London, Ont., won \$1 million in March 19's Lotto 6-49 draw. He'd won before as part of a group that cashed in on \$571,157 in 1992. CONTRIBUTED

Grain

Legislation aims to clear backlog

The federal government has tabled legislation aimed at increasing the movement of grain that has been left sitting in bins across the Prairies

due to a transportation bottleneck.

The legislation proposes the Canadian Grain Commission regulate how much a grain company will pay to a farmer if the company doesn't meet delivery dates set out in a contract.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chow to Ford: 'It's time to take down the circus tent'

Toronto. Scandal-plagued mayor accused of having made the city 'an international embarrassment' during live televised debate

Toronto's scandal-plagued mayor held his own against several concerted attacks during Wednesday's first televised mayoral debate as he seeks to stay in office come October.

Rob Ford, who frequently rolled his eyes, stared at the ceiling and flashed grins at the audience, defended his fiscal record as he shot back at the candidates vying to replace him.

"Four years ago, I was elected to stop the gravy train," Ford said, thumping a familiar drum. "I have stopped the gravy train."

Former NDP MP Olivia Chow was quick to shoot him down: "It's time for you to go because your gravy train has turned into a train wreck," Chow said. "You need to pack up that nonsense you're talking about."

Up for debate

"We've had it with the scandals and lack of truth. It's time to go because you're embarrassing our city."

Olivia Chow to Rob Ford



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, right, laughs next to David Soknacki as they take part in a mayoral debate in Toronto Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chow was the first candidate to allude directly to, but not mention, Ford's well-known problems — including smoking crack and spouting obscenities on live TV — that have made him talk-show

fodder and made him a recognizable name around the world.

Ford was frequently content to let the others debate among themselves, but didn't hesitate to jump in.

Former provincial PC party leader John Tory said Ford had "run out of gas" given his inability to get anything through a council that has stripped him of most of his powers. He accused the mayor of letting taxpayers

down and ruining the city's reputation.

Mostly, though, it was Chow and Ford who went at each other during the two-hour debate. "It's time to take down the circus tent at city hall," Chow said, saying the mayor had made Toronto "an international embarrassment."

Voters will choose whether Ford remains in office or will be replaced Oct. 27.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Getting Dropped Off at the Airport?



Construction is underway along the drop-off curb at Halifax Stanfield. Airport operations will continue, with safe access to the terminal building.

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Conservative MP Steven Fletcher speaks with the media as he leaves caucus on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory MP preps euthanasia bill

Former cabinet minister. Quadriplegic Steven Fletcher to table assisted-suicide proposal against government policy

A former Conservative cabinet minister who was left paralyzed from the neck down by a 1996 car crash plans to introduce two private member's bills which would allow assisted suicide in some cases.

Steven Fletcher, a Manitoba MP who was dropped from the federal cabinet last summer, is going against government policy with his legislation.

One of Fletcher's two bills would, if passed, allow doctors to help people end their lives under certain restricted circumstances. The second would set up a commission to monitor the system.

"There will be a set of statutory requirements that must be met before the act of physician-assisted death can happen," Fletcher said Wednesday before a Conservative caucus meeting.

He wouldn't go into specific details, saying that will have to wait until after the bills are introduced in the House of Commons on Thursday.

The legislation is likely to face a tough time in the Commons, which last looked at the issue in 2010 and voted against it by a wide margin.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay said he has no interest in starting that debate again.

Quoted

"I'm not in any hurry to reopen that issue."

Justice Minister Peter MacKay, expressing his disinterest in debating assisted suicide in the House of Commons.

Saskatchewan Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott, said he will vote against Fletcher's bills.

"I think there's great palliative care and other things that we can do instead," he said.

But Fletcher said the ensuing debate is what matters, because the question is currently being argued in the courts, rather than in Parliament, where he said it belongs.

"I think it's very important that we have a debate," he said.

The Supreme Court of Canada, which in 1993 narrowly ruled against Sue Rodriguez in her much-debated bid for assisted suicide, has agreed to hear another British Columbia right-to-die case this spring. Rodriguez, who had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, took her own life in 1994 with the help of an anonymous doctor.

"When I reflect back on the Sue Rodriguez case, I really felt that she should have been able to legally receive what was ultimately done," Fletcher said.

He also said polls suggest Canadians in general support the idea. A Quebec bill on assisted suicide died three weeks ago when the provincial election was called.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police chiefs, mental health leaders gather to discuss how to prevent tragedies

It's a national conversation that's finally taking place.

Amid growing concern over how police deal with some of society's most vulnerable, law enforcement officials, those who live with mental illness and those who support them have gathered to discuss how to avert tragedies during crises.

That dialogue, deemed

the first of its kind, comes at a time when statistics suggest one in five Canadians experience a mental health illness in any given year.

"It's a major step forward and a very bold step forward," said Louise Bradley, CEO of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, host of the conference in Toronto with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

One of the key issues police and mental health advocates have to grapple with is the lack of national standards: there isn't a country-wide training curriculum for officers on how to deal with the mentally ill, nor is there comprehensive data collected on the issue.

Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu, who's also president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, says "police are increasingly becoming the mental health response agency of first resort."

A primary goal at the conference is information sharing to find out what works well and confront what doesn't. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Poland warns against Putin

Ukrainian tanks are transported from their base in Perevalnoe, outside Simferopol, Crimea, Wednesday. Poland's ambassador to Canada is warning the security and certainty of the international post-Cold War era ended with Russia's recent annexation of Crimea and that NATO should have a more defined presence in eastern Europe.

PAVEL GOLOVKIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The truth is out there

Dwarf planet found in 'celestial wasteland'

Peering into the far reaches of the solar system, astronomers have spied a frozen pink world 12 billion kilometres from the sun.

It's the second such object to be discovered in a region of space beyond Pluto long considered a celestial wasteland. Until now, the lone known resident in this part of the solar system was an oddball dwarf planet spotted in 2003 named Sedna after the mythological Inuit goddess who created the sea creatures of the Arctic.

The new object, 2012 VP113, was tracked using a new camera on a ground telescope in Chile.

Like Sedna, VP is also a dwarf planet. It's jokingly nicknamed Biden after Vice President Joe Biden because of the object's initials.

It measures about 450 kilometres across. By contrast, Earth is about 12,713 kilometres across.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arctic talks continue despite rocky relations with Russia

Diplomacy. International politicians concerned about how country's actions in Ukraine may affect the situation up north

Canada may be upset at Russia over Ukraine, but conversations with the country continue over the Arctic.

Government officials confirm that a Russian delegation is attending a meeting in Yellowknife this week held by the Arctic Council, an eight-member group of countries that ring the North. All members are attending, even though the council includes some of Russia's harshest critics, such as Canada and the United States.

"The prime minister has

instructed Canadian officials to review all bilateral interactions with Russia," said Amanda Gordon, spokeswoman for Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq, the current head of the council.

"For the moment, however, Arctic Council work does continue as planned."

The Yellowknife meeting began Tuesday and continues until Thursday. The delegations are being led by bureaucrats, not politicians, and are all closed to the media.

It's the second time senior Arctic officials have met since Canada assumed its two-year chairmanship of the council.

In Europe this week, Harper questioned the mentality of the Russian government, which has said Canada has no right to speak out against Russia's moves against Ukraine. Some government departments have

already reduced their contact with Russia.

Speaking Tuesday in Washington, D.C., Transport Minister Lisa Raitt said her department is one of them.

"In my own portfolio we have looked at where there are points of contact, and we have stopped those points of contact," she said. "We are taking this very seriously, and it goes through the entire government."

Most of the Arctic Council's work involves the collection and sharing of scientific, environmental and social information between member countries and six aboriginal groups that have permanent observer status. The council has negotiated binding agreements that include deals on Arctic search and rescue and the prevention of oil spills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drunk driving

Counsellor convicted of murder faces 45 years to life

A substance-abuse counsellor who drove over three kilometres through a Los Angeles suburb with a dying man on her windshield faces a maximum prison term of 45 years to life.

A jury last month found Sherry Lynn Wilkins, 52, guilty of second-degree murder, drunken driving and hit-and-run for the incident that killed 31-year-old Phillip Moreno in Torrance in November 2012.

Wilkins also has two previous felony convictions that are considered serious and make her eligible for California's three strikes law.

Prosecutors at the time of the trial said Wilkins' blood-alcohol level was nearly twice the legal limit, and that what she did to Moreno "struck at human dignity."

"We do not tolerate someone who does not pull over when they see someone on their windshield," Deputy District Attorney John Harlan said after the verdict. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

More bodies found after mudslide. Officials holding out hope for survivors

Warning not heeded

"For someone to say that this plan did not warn that this was a risk is a falsity."

Rob Flaner, author of a 2010 report about landslides and high-risk areas

With search and cadaver dogs leading the way, rescuers using small bulldozers and their bare hands pushed through sludge strewn with splintered homes and twisted cars to find 10 more bodies in the debris of a Washington state mudslide, authorities said.

Despite the grim discoveries as the search entered its fifth day Wednesday — and the likelihood that more bodies will be found — officials were still hoping to find survivors.

"We haven't lost hope that there's a possibility that we can find somebody alive in some pocket area," said Snohomish County District 21 Fire Chief Travis Hots.

Two bodies were recovered Tuesday, while eight more were located in the debris field from Saturday's slide 55 miles northeast of Seattle, Hots said. That brings the likely death toll to 24, though authorities are keeping the official toll at 16 until the eight other bodies are recovered.

With scores still missing, authorities are working off a list of 176 people unaccounted for, though some names were believed to be duplicates.

Hundreds of rescuers and heavy equipment operators slogged through the muck and rain, following the search dogs over the unstable surface.

As the increasingly desperate search progressed, reports surfaced that warned of the potential for dangerous landslides in the community.

A 2010 report commissioned by Snohomish County to comply with a federal law warned that neighbourhoods along the Stillaguamish River were among the highest-risk areas, The Seattle Times reported. The hillside that collapsed Saturday outside of the community of Oso was one highlighted as particularly dangerous, said the report by California-based engineering and architecture firm Tetra Tech. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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CATCHING DREAMS

Day 1: the Problem
Day 2: the Plan
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Critics speak

They threw out our work, say Liberals

Despite Prime Minister Stephen Harper's claim that his First Nations education bill is "historic" and "long overdue," Carolyn Bennett remembers when the Liberal Party made a similar attempt years ago.

The aboriginal affairs critic and Toronto MP pointed to the 2005 Kelowna Accord, a broad-sweeping piece of legislation that sought to close the gap between First Nations communities and the rest of Canadian society.

It was scrapped in 2007

in a vote after the Conservatives were elected.

"The fact that the Kelowna Accord was thrown out was very upsetting," Bennett told Metro. "The Liberals are serious about this and want to carry on the work that was begun with Kelowna."

Bennett also had few kind words for how the current government formulated its First Nations education bill. She called the initial attempt, which was introduced in November and is now undergoing revision, a complete disaster.

"There needs to be an

understanding that bottom-up is the only way this will work," she said. "More paternalism and more tablets coming down from on high just serves to irritate people such that they can't even hear what you're saying."

While

"More paternalism and more tablets coming down from on high just serves to irritate people."

Bennett conceded that Harper's promise of \$1.9 billion for on-reserve education

over seven years is comparable to former Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin's promise of \$1.7 billion over five years, she focused her criticism on how each administration arrived at the conclusion.

"(The Kelowna Accord) started with hundreds of people in a room, deciding what will be the priorities and then dividing up into working groups and 18 months later coming up with a real plan with the dollars attached," she explained.

By contrast, she said, the Conservatives have imposed their views without proper consultation and have delayed the injection of funds into the system.

"We found out when the budget was tabled those monies won't fall until next year," she said. "So in some ways it was one step forward and two steps back."

However, Bennett added there is some evidence the Conservatives have been listening and eagerly awaits the release of the newly drafted document.

"This is about fixing the greatest social injustice in Canada," she said.

JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Chance

Upheaval is coming for First Nations schools. The federal government is planning to invest nearly \$2 billion into the neglected system and give communities more control over their own education. Metro travelled to two on-reserve schools to document their condition, the details of the plan and why many people say the proposed changes may be their kids' last chance.

The First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. Metro tracks down answers to the big questions about the government's solution



JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

How much will it cost?

That's the main question.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has committed a total of \$1.9 billion. This includes \$1.25 billion to run the system beginning in 2016 and increasing 4.5 per cent annually, \$500 million for infrastructure over seven years beginning in 2015 as well as \$160 million for transitional costs over four years beginning in 2015.

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, tells Metro the 4.5 per cent escalator is a step in the right direction.

"We've been advocating for years to break the two per cent cap," said Atleo, referring to the limit placed on education funding increases in the '90s, which doesn't adequately account for inflation and population growth.

What will curriculum look like at on-reserve schools?

One of the prime minister's catchphrases is "a comparable system." The goal is to create First Nations curriculums and high school diploma qualifications that those offered in non-aboriginal schools.

In addition, the government has promised to con-

tinue consulting with indigenous communities — after its original draft proposal was met with condemnation last fall — to incorporate language and cultural programs that reflect the unique heritage of all 633 First Nations across the country.

"We said we needed resour-



Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

ces for language and culture, (and) they've identified

that they put that in that

"The overriding goal of the legislation is better outcomes for First Nation students. First Nations and the Government of Canada agree that this is best achieved through First Nations control."
— Government of Canada website

\$1.9-billion budget announcement that they made," said Atleo.

How will the new act change control of First Nations education?

Until now the Indian Act

has governed First Nations education. Since the end of the residential school era, Ottawa has directly administered the system.

The new bill will create First Nations education authorities, which will function similarly to school boards in the provincial system. Authorities will govern schools on a local level and ensure they meet national and provincial standards.

Bernard Valcourt, minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, tells Metro that First Nations communities will appoint their own authorities, which can represent an area or a single school.

"I don't want to control education," said Valcourt. "I want First Nations to control education and First Nations will have options."

Will there be accountability?

The First Nations education authorities will oversee administrators and require annual reports. The regular reporting is designed to ensure teachers are certified and standards are met.

Atleo said accountability is a two-way street and both sides are responsible.

"They moved away from requiring or suggesting ministerial oversight," he said. "Now we're talking about reciprocal accountability."

Valcourt added that First Nations



Toronto MP and Liberal critic for aboriginal affairs Carolyn Bennett CONTRIBUTED

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education systems “will have to be accountable to their community, to the parents, to the kids and not to the federal government.”

Who opposes this?

There are numerous groups across Canada opposing the bill. One example is the Onion Lake Cree Nation in the Treaty No. 6 Territory.

Diana Steinhauer holds a PhD degree in indigenous knowledge from the Blue Quills First Nations College and works in governance at Onion Lake. Her official title is ka-nikanapistahk, which she says is Cree for “those who can’t speak for themselves, and it refers to the ones who aren’t here yet: the animals, the plants, the birds.”

Steinhauer explained that Onion Lake rejects the education act and any form of legislation that impedes on their sovereignty.

“We have our inherent jurisdiction over education and we’re not going to relinquish it,” she said.

The government is not in a position to hand over control, said Steinhauer, because treaty-rights holders should already have that power.

“The legislation will require that First Nation schools ... award widely recognized diplomas or certificates. These requirements do not currently exist.” — Government of Canada website

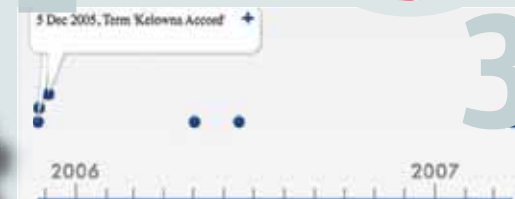
“It’s not their jurisdiction to be telling us what to do,” she said.

She added that the AFN doesn’t speak for Onion Lake, as “it’s not an inherent rights holder, it’s an organization developed and funded by the government.”



BERNARD VALCOURT, MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

On the web



1 Blue dot. A sign of defiance

Find out how a little blue sticker became a symbol of protest for opponents of the act. **CHRISTI BELCOURT/TWITTER**

2 Youth. Beyond the politics

Head over to metronews.ca to see what attendees at the Assembly of First Nations Youth Summit had to say about their learning experiences.

3 Timeline. Scrapped attempt

Go online to see an interactive timeline of the quashed Kelowna Accord and hear from the national co-chair of the Liberals’ Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission.



Critics speak

Too much we don’t know, says NDP



MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

The aboriginal affairs critic for Canada’s opposition party has “major concerns” about the federal government’s plan to improve First Nations education.

Announced back in February, the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act would inject more than \$1.9 billion in additional funding to address a financial shortfall for on-reserve education, starting in 2015.

But critics of the bill have questions on how — and when — the act will be implemented.

“We actually haven’t seen any legislation at this point, and what my concern is, is that the process of how this is going to be drafted is unclear,” said Jean Crowder, aboriginal affairs critic for the New Democratic Party.

“From our perspective, you can’t draft this legislation without having First Nations at the table.”

Although the federal government held eight face-to-face consultations, 54 informational briefings and

received 631 responses to an online survey while drafting the original First Nations Education Act, it was widely rejected.

And with the federal government’s recent announcement having little information on how First Nations will be consulted, Crowder said it’s hard to know what its

the fact money doesn’t start flowing until after the 2015 federal election raises

questions for her and her supporters.

“I can’t speak to their motivation on it,

but judging by the emails and letters I’m getting in my office, nobody’s being fooled,” she said.

“People recognize the money doesn’t flow until after a federal election, and given past history, just because people say one thing before an election doesn’t mean they’re going to do the same thing after.

“I think the timing is very suspicious,” she said. But Bernard Valcourt, federal minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, says the act has nothing to do with the upcoming election.

“I dismiss these charges ... (of) pure political partisanship on (the) part of the people who would rather not have us in government.

“A lot of work has been done. This has been evaluated and looked at by First Nations all across Canada. We’ve received their views, we’ve got the AFN resolution, we’ve got the open letter of the national chief and we have identified a way forward.”



Jean Crowder, NDP critic for aboriginal affairs CONTRIBUTED

outcome will be.

“I don’t know if there’s two people in a closed room putting it together, whether it’s going to have regional representation from across the country,” she said.

While Crowder feels the government’s acknowledgment of the funding gap is a step in the right direction,



Director of Copenhagen Zoo, Steffen Straede, stands in front of two lionesses. POLFOTO, JENS DRESLING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danish zoo defends killing four of its lions

Copenhagen Zoo. This cull has put the zoo on the defensive again, a month after it killed a healthy giraffe

A Danish zoo on Wednesday defended its decision to kill two aging lions and two cubs, citing the risk of inbreeding and the arrival of a new male. This week's cull has put the Copenhagen Zoo on the defensive again, a month after it infuriated animal rights activists by killing a healthy

giraffe, dissecting it in public and feeding it to the lions.

In a statement, the zoo said it had to put down the lions to make room for the new, three-year-old male, saying it wouldn't have been accepted by the pride if the older male, 16, were still around.

"Furthermore we couldn't risk that the male lion mated with the old female as she was too old to be mated with again due to the fact that she would have difficulties with birth and parental care of another litter," the zoo said.

The zoo said the cubs

Zoo as tough as nature

Zoo officials hope the new male and two females born in 2012 will form the nucleus of a new pride.

- They said the culling "may seem harsh, but in nature is necessary to ensure a strong pride of lions..."

were put down because they couldn't fend for themselves and the male would likely kill them. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

122 objects spotted in ocean offer fresh lead

A French satellite scanning the Indian Ocean for remnants of a missing jetliner found a possible plane debris field containing 122 objects, a top Malaysian official said Wednesday, calling it "the most credible lead that we have."

Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the objects were more than 2,500 kilometres southwest of Australia, in the area where a desperate, multinational hunt has been going on since other satellites detected possible jet debris.

Clouds obscured the latest satellite images, but dozens of objects could be seen in the gaps, ranging in length from one metre to 23 metres. Hishammuddin said some of them "appeared to be bright, possibly indicating solid materials."

The images were taken Sunday. Various floating ob-



Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency graphic shows objects in the south Indian Ocean. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

jects have been spotted by planes and satellites over the last week, including on Wednesday, when the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said three more objects were seen. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Search now size of Alaska

Malaysia announced Monday that a mathematical analysis of the final known satellite signals from the plane showed that it crashed in the sea, killing everyone on board.

- The new data greatly reduced the search zone, but it remains huge — an area estimated at 1.6-million square kilometres, about the size of Alaska.
- Recovering any part of the plane will be tough because of the sheer depth of the ocean — much of it between about 3,000-4,500 metres (10,000-15,000 feet) deep in the search area.

Turkey

Court orders Twitter restored

A Turkish court ordered the telecommunications authority to restore access to Twitter on Wednesday, issuing an injunction five days after the government blocked access to the social network.

The ban came shortly after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to "rip out the roots" of Twitter, which has been a conduit for links to recordings suggesting government corruption.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Art mimics life

Movie similar to disaster on hold

A disaster movie about a jet that crashes into the ocean on its way to Beijing has been put on hold because of its similarities to the missing Malaysian plane.

Arclight Films, the company behind Deep Water, said Wednesday that pre-production has been halted for the time being.

"We're delaying it out of respect for what's going on," managing director Gary Hamilton said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secret Service

Three of Obama's bodyguards called home

The chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee said Wednesday he's troubled by an incident involving a drunken Secret Service agent in connection with President Barack Obama's overseas trip to The Netherlands.

On Sunday, the agency called three agents home from the Netherlands just before Obama's arrival for talks with foreign leaders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Airbag issue

Nissan recalls 60,000 vehicles in Canada

Nissan is recalling about 60,000 cars, SUVs and minivans in Canada because the front passenger airbags may not inflate in a crash.

The announcement is part of a broader recall of just over 1 million cars, SUVs and minivans across North America by the automaker. It's the company's second recall to fix the same problem.

The recall affects almost 990,000 vehicles in the U.S. and small numbers elsewhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report

Drug costs should stay stable under trade deal with EU

The Conference Board of Canada says drug costs are unlikely to rise significantly under a trade agreement between Canada and the EU. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Interac Association

Interac fraud drops 62%

The Interac Association says Interac debit card fraud losses caused by so-called skimming, or the stealing of information, are at a record low in Canada, helped by improved technology. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BlackBerry beckons biz in BYOD era

Bring your own device.

As more staffers use personal phones to conduct business, the Waterloo tech firm aims to provide peace of mind

system.

The Waterloo, Ont.-based company says the software helps government and business employees use mobile devices of their choice with lower security risks.

The certification will give security-conscious organizations, like U.S. and Canadian government agencies, the ability to use software which separates sensitive corporate data from personal content on a single mobile device.

BlackBerry Ltd. has received certification for U.S. government employees to use its Secure Work Space enterprise software on iPhones and devices that use the Android operating system.

The technology is part of products that became available through the rollout of its BlackBerry 10 operating

More technology companies have been chasing the lucrative business market as BlackBerry's popularity waned.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawsuit launched

In other developments yesterday, chief executive John Chen says he's fighting against future product leaks by filing a lawsuit that he hopes will set an example.

- Chen alleges that an unnamed person stole confidential details about a future BlackBerry product and leaked them to the public.

Saga of the sweet, then sour stock debut

Characters of the King Digital Entertainment game Candy Crush Saga walk the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, before the company's IPO, Wednesday. The festive move didn't last. King's stock priced at \$22.50 US on Tuesday, valuing the company at \$7.1 billion, but it opened on Wednesday at \$20.50, down almost nine per cent. Its shares lost more ground by the day's close, falling more than 15 per cent. King Digital Entertainment PLC had \$1.88 billion in revenue last year. That's more than 10 times its 2012 revenue of \$164.4 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have password fatigue? Your voice may solve that

With passwords and PINs increasingly being targeted by hackers, speaking could become a new method to access secure accounts.

Voice biometrics — technol-

ogy that knows who you are based on your voice — is already being used by banks and telecom companies globally for better security, says software company Nuance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Return. It took man 16 years to get out of loan agreement

It started with an unwanted laptop, and it ended in Britain's Supreme Court.

A Scottish man on Wednesday won a 16-year court battle sparked by a wrangle over a

loan he'd taken out to buy a computer.

An oil worker bought a laptop from a store in Scotland in 1998, using a credit agreement with a lender. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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I SURRENDER, MOTHER NATURE

OK, winter, I give up.

Forget discontent. This is the winter of our disbelief.

Mother Nature went from her usual fickle and frigid self to full-on cruel and cold-hearted. Bing Crosby's *White Christmas* gave way long ago to *Game of Thrones*' Winter Without End. Jack Frost bit my nose off and spat it in my face.

We were once in a snow globe, but now we're trapped Under the Dome, scratching at the glass and screaming for anyone to let us out.

As I write this, the Maritimes is being hit with the sort of storm that usually gives rise to over-the-top, two-word blends like polar vortex, frostquake or snowpocalypse. By the time you read this, the blizzard may well be known as a Sleet Scream, The Parthenon Freeze or Ictrocitry 2014.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, it's been cold for so long that my friends and I are deeply excited that the forecast for the



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

week includes such mercies as 10 degrees and rainy, which will give us at least one day to dream that we're Vancouverites adrift in a warmish sea of cappuccinos and cannabis.

(This column is least relevant for Vancouver residents, but just replace the word "snow" with "rain," the word "cold" with "drab" and the words "We're all in this together" with "Get bent.")

The predicted improvement from insufferable weather to unpleasant weather had given me hope that things were improving, but then I saw a new headline on Wednesday: "WINTER-LIKE WEATHER TO CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST MID-APRIL."

It's funny how your eyes play tricks on you, because when I first glanced at the headline I read it as "LEAP FROM THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY." I thought about it, but figured the snow would probably break my fall anyway.

Which leads me back to my original thought: I give up. I

have no more rage, no more despair to give. The tears only freeze on my face. The seven-day forecast has pushed me through the seven stages of grief and it's time to accept my frosty fate.

I accept that it's going to be winter forever. And I for one welcome our new, flakey overlords.

Why, winter year-round will be grand.

Patio weather will be any time we want, there'll be no annoying change of car tires, no suffering through another bus-stop simpleton asking, "Hot enough for ya?"

Hockey in June will make perfect sense, the cars-versus-bikes feud will end, and a balaclava will provide all the SPF protection you need.

No smog, no humidity, no insects. No summer love means no summer heartbreaks.

Endless winter will mean being comfortably numb, with smiles frozen on our faces.

I give up, winter. You win. I am yours, and you're all right.

A naysayer might claim I have Stockholm syndrome, but I checked. It's 14 and sunny there.

Uncle, Mother Nature. Uncle.

ZOOM

10,000-calorie, beastly burger

Substantial sandwich inspired by a cartoon

The 10,000-calorie whopper, dubbed the Ulti-Meatum, was cooked up by restaurant owners Corinne and John Clarkson after seeing the meat feast on Cartoon Network's *The Regular Show*.

The monster meal includes five pounds (2.2 kilograms) of meat and a cheeseburger within a burger just like in the children's animation. The owners of the Mister Eaters fish and chips restaurant in Preston, England, are offering up a man-versus-food challenge where daring punters can eat for free if they can finish the burger in one sitting. **METRO**

Q & A with John Clarkson, one of the creators

Special plate needed to hold it

Was this as much a personal challenge as anything else?

Yeah, I enjoy it and it's a bit of fun. I'm a butcher by trade and I'm familiar with meat and how it sticks together, so I thought I'll have a go. We've done the world's biggest deep-fried Ferrero Rocher at 11 pounds (five kilograms) in weight and that went global, so I thought I could do the same with this. It gets people talking; the shop's been overwhelmed.

Did you have any problems building the burger?

We had three or four flops. I had to design a plate with pins that are the same height as the burger, so that it doesn't topple over. The thing with my burger is that it's not messy when you cut it open — you get a really nice cross-section as you can see in the picture.



TWITTER: @TORGANDELLJOIT

Clickbait



ANDREW FIFIELD

andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

The Oculus Rift VR helmet's splashy debut on the tech conference circuit helped make it one of the most successful Kickstarters of all time, eventually leading to Facebook's \$2B purchase of Oculus on Tuesday. So it looks like VR is about ready to become a thing, and these movies available on Netflix will provide a nice glimpse of the nightmarish future it will usher in.



The Oculus Rift virtual reality headset THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

eXistenz:

Jennifer Jason Leigh and Jude Law star as a video game designer and her protégé who flit between virtual worlds while avoiding assassins determined to hunt them down in this sci-fi brain bender from David Cronenberg. It's truly weird and wonderful.

Strange Days:

A gem lying among the junk of mid-'90s cyber-paranoia flicks, the Kathryn Bigelow-directed *Strange Days* is the story of a former cop who stumbles

across a high-profile murder among his collection of virtual reality clips, wrapping him up in a manhunt across an L.A. that has disintegrated into a war zone as the calendar heads toward the year 2000.

Evolver:

Here is where we veer decidedly into B-movie territory when an elite gamer gets a chance to play a live version of his favourite video game. Naturally, this leads to big, violent problems when he finds himself battling a ruthlessly efficient killer robot.

Twitter



@metropicks asked: A US\$297 course called conscious uncoupling promises a happy breakup. Would you pay?

@Canucklehead_ca: Why pay to have the cow sent back to pasture when you can simply give up milk for free?

@prussell_pc: I have paid .. far more. This program takes two to un-tango, and so wouldn't have worked for me.

@Anyazub: That's like four bottles of whiskey, cover charge and two rounds at the bar for me and two of my best friends.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

The Pack A.D. is loud and proud — and back in town

Do Not Engage. Jim Diamond-produced twosome to play at the Seahorse Tavern this weekend



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

The Pack A.D. is returning to town this weekend.

The Vancouver-based duo is back to play the Seahorse this Saturday night, bringing with them their latest album, *Do Not Engage*.

"I love playing the Seahorse," says Becky Black, the twosome's guitarist. "The audience can expect loud music — maybe they should wear ear plugs."

Five albums in, Black attributes her quick creative turnaround to her desire to keep their touring show as interesting and different as possible.

"People worry that you may run out of ideas as a

Details

What: The Pack A.D.
Where: The Seahorse Tavern
When: Saturday, 9 p.m.
Tickets: \$12 advance

two-piece but I rarely do," she said.

"I feel like every time we go out on the road, I want to sit and write more material because we're going on stage every night and singing the same songs every night, which is getting boring."

It helps when you have the likes of Jim Diamond, famed White Stripes producer, by your side once again.

With his help, Black and bandmate Maya Miller continue on a steady trajectory in the music scene, a momentum that saw them nominated for their 2011 release, *Unpersons*.

With Diamond's "good ear" and the Pack's creative drive, the Seahorse audience this weekend will find it hard to not engage.



The Pack A.D. is returning to the Seahorse Tavern for a show on Saturday night. CONTRIBUTED

Local vibes, global results

Good vibes for a good cause will take place Friday night at The Company House with Local Vibes for GHEI.

- After four years studying international development at Dalhousie University, soon-to-graduate student

Chloe MacPherson is heading to Ghana this summer to work with Ghana Health and Education Initiative (GHEI).

- "They work alongside the school in the area to make sure that kids are graduat-

ing on time and all the issues that are going on health- and education-wise are being recognized," said MacPherson. "I'm involved in a girls' empowerment program with education promotion as the prime focus."

- Friday's event will feature local acts including Larch of the Titans, Spunion and DAL's Got Talent winner Emily Ambrose.

- The funds will help MacPherson pay for her many pre-travel immunizations,

but will also go directly toward the GHEI efforts in which she will be participating.

- The event starts at 9 p.m. with tickets \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door.

JENNA CONTER

2 SCENE



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10 of the weirdest celebrity selfies

In a world full of social media and selfies, it's no surprise that celebs are bound to get in trouble for some of the photos they post. Sometimes they're too sexy, sometimes they're too tasteless, other times ... they're just weird.

JENNIFER VALDEZ

Metro World News in New York City



10. Constipated Bieber

Justin Bieber snaps this selfie while lounging by the pool. The shirtless Bieber shows off some of his tattoos and a discomfited look on his face.

TWITTER @JUSTINBIEBER



9. High in the sky

Nicholas Cage has his photo taken with a passenger on a plane and while he's looking at the camera, his eyes are half shut. Not sure if the altitude is too high or his spirits are just low.

REDDIT.COM



8. The Hanx

Who knows what Tom Hanks is cooking up in his kitchen? The infamous actor snapped this selfie rocking a USS hat, sunglasses, and a bare chest. No shirt. No problem. It's a good thing he can still get service in his own kitchen.

WHOSAY.COM



7. Franco face pads

James Franco's beauty secret is out after the actor posted this Instagram selfie before bedtime. We're not sure what the face pads are for but we're sure it helps the actor keep that gorgeous Franco face.

INSTAGRAM @JAMESFRANCO



6. Chris Beard

Chris Brown snaps this selfie saying this is what his beard looks like when he lets it grow. The singer has been in jail for the past two months so cutting his beard may not be an option right now. Also, how did he get a phone in jail?

INSTAGRAM @OFFICIALCHRISBROWN



5. Post-workout posing

Kim Kardashian and Blac Chyna pose for their post-workout selfie at the gym. We're not sure if the weight is actually coming off or just shifting to other places.

INSTAGRAM @KIMKARDASHIAN



4. Bath buddies

Conan O'Brien and Ricky Gervais get a little scrub-a-dub-dub in the tub time. Ricky posted this bubbly selfie via Twitter appearing as if the two had been busted in the bathtub.

TWITTER @RICKYGERVAIS



3. Miley's tasty Moonman

Miley Cyrus just can't seem to keep her tongue in her mouth as she snaps a selfie, nearly licking a Video Music Award. Most would say she's disrespecting the Moonman, similar to how she disrespected the foam finger.

INSTAGRAM @MILEYCYRUS



2. Long hair, don't care

Madonna posted this Instagram photo three days ago titled "Long hair; Don't care." While Madonna may not care about her new look, some fans were pretty creeped out by the underhair selfie.

INSTAGRAM @MADONNA



1. Sexy Selena

After Selena posted this sexy snapshot on Instagram, reports claimed it was taken by Justin Bieber. One thing's for sure, she seems to be having some trouble with the curtains.

INSTAGRAM @SELENAGOMEZ

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David Bradley doesn't mind playing the villain

Nice day for a red wedding. Actor moves on from killing kings to vampires in new series

Even in Toronto, British actor David Bradley gets accosted for being the world's worst wedding host in *Game of Thrones*.

Bradley plays Lord Walder Frey in the HBO fantasy series. At the end of Season 3, he most infamously had his guests, members of the Stark clan, slain. The new season starts April 6.

"I was shooting a scene in the Toronto subway recently and one of the extras came up to me and said, 'I'd like to thank you for what you did to the Starks,'" says Bradley with a smile.

"It's the first time I've had a positive reaction. Normally people are at their TV hurling abuse at me. But I must confess, I really did enjoy that scene. Maybe a little too much."

The actor was in Toronto last week filming one of the most anticipated new TV shows of the season: Guillermo del Toro's *The Strain*. The vampire series is based on the books and comics created by the Mexican director.

In the series, Bradley

Quoted

"Normally people are at their TV hurling abuse at me. But I must confess, I really did enjoy that scene. Maybe a little too much."

David Bradley, who plays Lord Frey on *Game of Thrones*, on filming the Red Wedding scene



David Bradley's Lord Frey in the infamous Red Wedding scene in *Game of Thrones*. CONTRIBUTED

plays professor Abraham Setrakian, a Holocaust survivor who runs a pawn shop in Harlem. He also happens to be a vampire hunter trying to save the world from the outbreak of a deadly virus.

"They just asked me if I could go to Canada in four days and I said yes. I'm a big fan of Guillermo," says Bradley, on set in an east-end Toronto studio.

It's a pretty physical role

for Bradley, who was recently firing off nail guns at 3 a.m. in the cold Toronto winter.

"You do feel your age sometimes," he says. "But I've got heat pads in my shoes."

And while you would have thought from his *Game of Thrones* experience that he wouldn't have any trouble at all decapitating his foes, the 71-year-old actor says it's surprisingly a

lot harder than it looks on screen.

"It's quite a complicated process, beheading someone. There's all that animatronics and so on," he says. "And the special effects are really something. You'll have a decapitated head with a blinking eye in a corner or something. It can be quite disconcerting."

Decapitating aside, after the Red Wedding, it may be hard for fans to see

how any vampire can match the evil of Lord Frey, even one created by del Toro.

"He is a pretty wicked guy, but there are some pretty horrible people here, too," promises Bradley.

Moreover, these vampires are not meant to be sexy teen heartthrobs.

"It's not like *Twilight*. They are dirty and rough; it's not romantic or glamorous at all."

Bradley, meanwhile, has enjoyed a late career renaissance, with recurring roles in major science fiction and fantasy franchises such as *Harry Potter*, as Hogwarts caretaker Argus Filch, *Game of Thrones* and now *The Strain*. He also portrayed the first Doctor Who in the BBC's *An Adventure in Space and Time* and co-starred in the critically acclaimed crime drama *Broadchurch*.

"It's kind of like what they say about the London buses. You wait for hours and then four of them come all at once," he laughs. "It's kind of been like that lately."

The Strain was filming the 10th of 13 episodes last week. It is expected to wrap by the end of April, with a release date later this summer.

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Crowe takes on role of biblical proportions

Noah. Actor's latest flick renews the tradition of mass audience Bible epics — with a distinctly darker feel

At the beginning of their work together on *Noah*, director Darren Aronofsky made Russell Crowe a promise: "I'll never shoot you on a houseboat in a robe and sandals with two giraffes popping up behind you."

Decades after Cecil B. DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* and Ben-Hur, Aronofsky has renewed the tradition of the studio-made, mass audience Bible epic, albeit as a distinctly darker parable about sin, justice and mercy. While much of his *Noah* is true to Scripture, it's nothing like the picture-book version many encounter as children.

"The first time I read it, I got scared," the director says. "I thought, 'What if I'm not good enough to get on the boat?'"

It's an altogether unlikely project: a \$130-million Bible-based studio film made by a widely respected filmmaker (*Black Swan*, *Requiem for a Dream*) few would have pegged as a modern-day DeMille. In the lead-up to its March 28th release, *Noah* has been flooded by controversy, with some religious conservatives claiming it isn't literal enough to the Old Testament and that *Noah* has been inaccurately made, as Aronofsky has called him, "the first environmentalist."

Noah is a culmination of the shift brought on by Mel



Director Darren Aronofsky, left, and actor Russell Crowe on the set of *Noah*. NIKO TAVERNISE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gibson's independently produced *The Passion of the Christ*, which awakened Hollywood with its unforeseen \$612 million box office haul in 2004. In the time since, Hollywood has carefully developed closer ties to faith-based communities, (Sony and 20th Century Fox have set up faith-based studios

targeting evangelicals).

Yet the debate about *Noah* proves that it can be tricky to satisfy both believers and non-believers, and that finding the right intersection of art, commerce and religion is a task loaded with as much risk as potential reward.

A lot is at stake, and not just

for *Noah* and distributor Paramount Pictures. In December, Fox will release Ridley Scott's *Exodus*, starring Christian Bale as Moses.

On the heels of the recently released *Son of God*, the religious drama *God's Not Dead* opened last Friday and Sony is releasing the less straight-

Mass appeal

"It's wrong when you talk about the Noah story to talk about it in that type of believer-nonbeliever way because I think it's one of humanity's oldest stories. ... Everyone on the planet knows the Noah story."

Director Darren Aronofsky

forwardly biblical *Heaven Is for Real* ahead of Easter next month. The studio is also developing a vampire twist on Cain and Able with Will Smith. In Lionsgate's pipeline is a *Mary Magdalene* film, hyped as a prequel to *The Passion of the Christ* and co-produced by megachurch pastor Joel Osteen.

When Jonathan Boch started his company Grace Hill Media in 2000 to consult Hollywood studios on reaching the faith community, the two "really didn't know each other," he says. Since then, films like *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Blind Side* have benefited from outreach to churchgoers.

"Over the course of those 15 years, you've seen the faith community go from almost pariah status or flyover status to now being seen as an important market," says Boch, who consulted on *Noah*. "In my mind, what we're seeing is another renaissance where the greatest artists are telling the

greatest stories every told."

Though Hollywood largely swore off the Bible epic when films like 1965's *The Greatest Story Ever Told* flopped, the revival dovetails recent trends. Figures like *Noah* are globally recognizable, and thus easier to market. They come with no licensing fee, and, often, plenty of opportunity for flashy special effects. *Noah*, which is being released in converted 3D overseas, is perhaps the oldest apocalypse story.

The story fascinated Aronofsky as a Jewish kid growing up in Brooklyn. He recalls a poem he wrote about the tale as a 13-year-old — and a teacher's subsequent encouragement — as his birth as a storyteller. Whereas *The Passion of the Christ* was largely made by Christians and for Christians, Aronofsky says his *Noah* (which was advertised during the Super Bowl) is "for everybody."

"It's wrong when you talk about the Noah story to talk about it in that type of believer-nonbeliever way because I think it's one of humanity's oldest stories," he says. "It belongs not just in the Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition. Everyone on the planet knows the Noah story."

The Genesis story is only a few pages, with more details on the dimensions of the ark (which Aronofsky held to) than who *Noah* was. He's instructed by God — "grieved" in his heart by what mankind had become generations after Creation — to build an ark and fill it with two of every animal.

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The life and times of a Bomb Girl

For two seasons, actress Charlotte Hegele immersed herself in the life of Second World War munitions factory worker Kate Andrews on the series *Bomb Girls*.

While her character grew on the series — breaking away from her authoritarian father and dealing with rumours of her “unnatural” love for fellow munitions worker Betty — so too did Hegele’s knowledge of the period.

With the TV movie *Bomb Girls: Facing the Enemy* airing Thursday at 8 p.m. ET/PT on Global, we asked Hegele to tell us what she learned about the era in her role as Kate. **METRO**



Charlotte Hegele plays Kate Andrews in *Bomb Girls*.
CONTRIBUTED

Women’s roles in war were dangerous, too

Before working on *Bomb Girls* I never knew the crucial role Canadian women played during the Second World War.

In school I only ever learned about how men bravely fought on the front lines. But it was the women back home who made the ammunition those Canadian soldiers used to win the war.

It was a dangerous job that paved the way for later generations of women to work in an industrial setting. It was a hazardous workplace and those women stepped up to the task.

‘Their stories gave me goosebumps.’

I was given the opportunity to meet the women from that era and hear first-hand their accounts of the Second World War.

From building bombs, to cracking German codes, to serving overseas, these women did it all. Their stories gave me goosebumps.

I’ll never forget how incredible those women were, and still are.

Movies, music and fashion in wartime

Working on *Bomb Girls*, I was immersed in 1940s culture.

I learned hit songs sung by Vera Lynn, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. I watched movies like Alfred Hitchcock’s *Suspicion* (1941) and *Saboteur*.

Fashion was transformed by wartime rationing. Hemlines got shorter. Stocking seams were drawn up women’s legs to fake the real thing. Movie stars like Veronica Lake styled their hair into up-dos to encourage safe practices on factory production lines. The war changed everything.

It’s all about the girls

In the film and television industry there is an unwritten rule that promotes the idea that audiences would prefer to see stories centred around men rather than women.

Bomb Girls proves this wrong. On *Bomb Girls* I got to work with some of the most talented and passionate women in the business like Adrienne Mitchell, Janis Lundman, Anne Wheeler, Rachel Talalay, and of course Meg Tilly.

These women shaped me into being both a better performer and a stronger person. I can’t thank them enough.





Selena Gomez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Selena, stop hitting repeat-peat-peat on that relationship: Parents

Selena Gomez's parents are reportedly gearing up for another intervention for the former Disney star, hoping a return trip to rehab and distance from on-again, off-again boyfriend Justin Bieber will get her back on the straight and narrow, according to Life & Style Weekly. Their last attempts to convince Gomez to seek help for anxiety and alleged substance abuse issues went well, with Gomez voluntarily checking into the Meadows treatment facility in Arizona

— but she checked herself out two weeks later to rush to Bieber's side in the wake of his legal troubles. And she's been spotted with the troubled Canadian pop star regularly since then, most recently this past weekend in L.A. when she stopped by the Sunset Towers Hotel for a quick visit with Bieber. Sources tell the magazine that Gomez's parents want her to ditch Bieber for good and head back to Meadows to complete her six-week program.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

That's so tweet: Martin and Paltrow make peace with a painting



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

What should a sensitive GOOP-ified husband do to comfort his soon-to-be-ex-beloved in their time of conscious uncoupling? Put a bird on it, of course.

Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow are clearly making an effort to ensure that even their divorce is expensive and classy. Apparently Coldplay front man Martin even bought Paltrow a parting gift — an etching of a bird by Polish



artist Mila Fürstová, created as cover art for a Coldplay album, a source told the Daily Mail.

"The fighting is over now, there's no bitterness. They're actually going to have some fun," the source said.

There's the picture above. It's pretty cool and the sort of thing that Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow would have in their living room.

It seems unfair that even their divorce is cooler than me. Or maybe not: Mila Fürstová's staff denies that Chris Martin bought one of her works "as a gift or for any other reason."



Twitter



@Pink

I'm hearing I've been hacked... I hope "I" didn't say something out of line. Can I always say I've been hacked now? When I do that?



@samantharonson

Just found a piece of cheese in my sleeve- in case you were wondering how this not smoking thing is going.



@solangeknowles

This damn taxi driver... This tweet sponsored by "Shade"



Judd Apatow and Lena Dunham

Apatow admits Girls could have been a lot more graphic

While Lena Dunham's hit HBO series Girls has often been criticized for how far it goes as far as sexual content, producer Judd Apatow reveals that apparently they've wanted to go even farther. "There have been things on Girls where HBO has said to us, 'If we put this on TV, we literally could

lose our license to broadcast," Apatow told a group of college students at an event in Los Angeles, according to the New York Post. "Let's just say it's something you see in adult film — elements of sexual intercourse. The high points of sexual intercourse." Maybe they can save that for the DVD.



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SHOPPERS DRUG MART



Fashion, at its purest, is about telling stories. And the best storytellers are ones with tales to tell themselves. Here, we look at five individuals making waves in the Canadian fashion industry while weaving their own experiences into the mix.

SIGRID FORBERG
life@metronews.ca

Nana Osei

Designer, Böhren Eyeglasses Inc.

It was on a trip to Ghana in 2009 that Nana Osei saw an opportunity to combine his passions for social responsibility and fashion. While still in university in Ottawa, he created Böhren Eyeglasses Inc. The lightweight eyewear, made of reclaimed wood from West Africa and handcrafted in zero-waste facilities in Canada, have been drawing national attention. He's even appeared on the Dragon's Den. In the future, Osei hopes to bring the manufacturing to Africa as well. "People say there's nothing you can do about some things, but I say it always just starts small," says Osei.



5

who stitched their story into a style career

Meredith Wright

Filmmaker, Agency

After modelling for several years around the world, and being turned off by the way models were treated everywhere she went, Wright wanted to expose some of the darker sides of the industry. The end result was Agency, a documentary about young girls working for a modelling agency in Japan. Shot through Wright's own perspective, living in an apartment with fellow models in Osaka, Japan, the film aims to get people asking questions about the industry they normally wouldn't. "If I told someone that underage girls were working with no representation, they would be upset," says Wright. "So why is it OK when it's for fashion?"



Lolitta Dandoy

Blogger, Fashion is Everywhere

With a mix of French and English posts on Fashion is Everywhere, Dandoy is the quintessential Montrealer. As a fashion journalist, she'd always wanted to start her own publication. Faced with a cancer diagnosis several years ago, while convalescing at home, she decided to go for it. Surrounded by so much creativity in Montreal, she tries to capture an awareness in her blog that the fashion community is in fact a community and has a greater meaning beyond superficial consumerism. "When somebody doesn't feel right in their skin, a lot of that can have to do with their appearance," says Dandoy. "It can change things you don't expect."



Julia Che

President, Lotus Leaf Communications

After studying fashion communications at Ryerson University, Che was working in public relations in Toronto when she noticed a friend, who is a talented jewelry designer, needed help promoting her product. Thus, Lotus Leaf Communications was born. They now represent big-name clients like 7 For All Mankind, Dr. Martens and Manitobah Mukluks. And while they've grown exponentially from that first client, at the end of the day, Che has used the company's success to give back to the community. "Agents of Change is a branch of Lotus Leaf," says Che. "Through it, we can use our expertise to increase awareness about social issues."



Jigme Nehring

Founder, Mine & Yours

After living in Los Angeles, where the buy-sell-trade concept is common, Jigme Nehring decided to bring the model to Vancouver. Her resale shop, Mine & Yours is a place where women can purchase, sell or trade their gently used clothing. Nehring emphasizes the business's aspect of giving women the chance to recycle and find good homes for items that might otherwise collect dust in the back of their closets. The trouble with the fashion industry, Nehring explains, is the amount of waste it produces, which the shop aims to help negate as much as possible. "Mine & Yours helps reduce waste by extending the life of great pieces that are still in style and encouraging people to buy used clothing over new," says Nehring.



Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Natasha Taylor

Age: 27

Occupation: Project manager and professional dancer

What she's wearing:

H&M tuque, J. Crew Gingham button up, my boyfriend's sweater from Jack & Jones, faux leather zipper leggings from GUESS, Top Shop wedge booties, neon Cambridge style bag from Forever 21.

Her inspiration:

I'm a bit of a tomboy at heart but I also like to incorporate feminine flare. My style is heavily influenced by British street style as well as dancers from the dance community in Toronto.

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT — AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM — AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION, TOO!



Trends Report



Floral fashion dominated the runways from New York to Milan for this season, just in time for spring, despite the prolonged cold weather. Go online to Trends Report to see how to wear pretty petals, from haute couture gowns to casual wear.

- Online. Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo: Getty Images



3 LIFE

Trends Report



Floral fashion dominated the runways from to Milan for this season, just in time for spring, despite the prolonged cold weather. Go online to Trends Report to see how to wear pretty petals, from haute couture gowns to casual wear.

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Photo: Getty Images



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metro

SPRING FEVER

Thursday, March 27, 2014

When spring weather does actually arrive, there are several jobs that can be done before planting, like raking winter debris and leaves, and pruning evergreens. HANNA MARIAH/SHUTTERSTOCK

Preaching planting patience

JENNIFER
TAPLIN
For Metro

Spring is an especially sweet time for green thumbs and neat freaks.

And while Emily Tregunno with Halifax Seed is itching for the nice weather as much as the next gardener, she cautions patience.

"People think, 'Oh, spring is here, let's get out in the garden.' But that's such a big misconception because you don't want to start putting plants in the ground, depending on what they are, until mid-April or May," she said. "Annuals you don't want

to plant until June."

But there are several jobs that can be done before planting, like raking winter debris and leaves, and pruning evergreens. Those who want to get a head start have already started growing their vegetable and herb seeds inside.

This was a cold, harsh winter that continues, Tregunno said.

"At this point, it would be great to see some warmth," she said. "I'm always excited to get back out into my vegetable garden and start growing my own food."

Some of her favourite spring flowers are daffodils and tulips. Crocuses are also

Spring cleaning tips

- Professional organizer Lisa Macdonald recommends picking up some see-through storage totes and labelling them well.
- If a sentimental item is being displayed or being used, keep it. "But if it's in a box in

the basement and mildewy, that argument doesn't hold water with me," she said.

- One of Macdonald's favourite organizing mantras is to have nothing in your home you don't find beautiful or useful.

a welcome sign of spring, she said.

"I can't wait to get out into the vegetable garden and plant some peas and lettuces, things that are a little harder and get that first harvest early

in the season."

She is also looking forward to filling her patio with flower pots.

"Adding some colour to the outdoors is always nice."

But it's another story in-

doors for Lisa Macdonald. The professional organizer with All Organized is hip deep helping homeowners with their spring cleaning.

"Often, people are overwhelmed with the amount of clutter in their homes," she said, adding that April is her busiest month. "They can't really get into cleaning because there's so much stuff in the way, so my advice, of course, is to call a professional organizer."

When going through belongings and especially clothes, Macdonald recommends the old stand-by rule — if it hasn't been used in a year, chuck it.

Relief for allergy sufferers

If you suffer from seasonal allergies, you know all too well how the season springs into your body, by way of sneezing, scratchy throat, itchy eyes, runny eyes and nose, headaches, even some joint or ear pain.

"The best thing to do, because you're never really going to eliminate (allergens), is try the non-drowsy anti-histamines," said Dr. Graham MacKenzie, a pharmacist in Baddeck, N.S. "You don't really have any side-effects from them except you're starting to feel better."

He suggests natural remedies, as well.

"We'll also recommend a good dose of omega-3 — an anti-inflammatory," MacKenzie said. "Your immune system needs to be top notch to fight an allergen."

Even stress can wreak havoc when it comes to allergies.

"If your cortisol levels are down, if you're stressed out, allergies are one of the first things we see in people who are never allergic to anything before," he said.

If you are sensitive to pollen, but must be outside, he suggested wearing a mask. MacKenzie said some people put coverings on windows to keep the pollen outside.

CHRISTINA COPP




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Grab a seat at a local oasis

Outdoors. HRM patios continue to thrive with number of permits steadily increasing

JENNIFER
TAPLIN
For Metro

Paris can keep its Eiffel Tower, nothing beats a Halifax patio.

And patio season is almost upon us. The municipality's Transportation and Public Works department is setting a start date of April 22 for this year's patio permits.

Voted best patio in HRM 10 years running in The Coast, the rooftop patio Your Father's Mustache on Spring Garden Road doesn't look like much now, but it will be hopping in no time.

General manager Shane Robilliard said they plan to open May 1. Customers are

Permit factors

There are three parts to the patio permit price for restaurants, depending on a number of factors:

- A \$200 permit fee
- A retail fee based on the location of the café. In downtown Halifax, it's \$2.50 per square foot
- Restaurants must cover the cost of removal and reinstallation of parking meters and sign posts

so eager for patio season, the rooftop is packed at the slightest hint of warmth, he said.

"It's like you're not even downtown, it's like you're sitting in an oasis or a beach setting because it's so separated from the city," he said.

But the rooftop patio is a



Patios in the HRM provide great business for many restaurants during warmer months. CANDYBOX IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

"barren, desolate place" now, he said. The bar is boarded up to discourage pigeons from getting in.

"It's a sad state of affairs," he joked about the patio in the off-season.

But when spring eventually arrives, so will the business. Robilliard said their sales almost double over the

summer. The patio adds 170 seats for customers and Robilliard said he hires more than 30 staff to accommodate them.

"We hire a whole bar crew for upstairs, servers, support staff, everything just to get through the patio season," he said.

"It's massive, absolutely."

It's great business for many restaurants. They all have to apply to HRM if they want to set out a patio that encroaches onto the sidewalk. The number of permits the HRM has issued has steadily increased over the years: 29 in 2009; 45 in 2010; 46 in 2011; 52 in 2012; and 51 last year.

Give your skin a makeover

The polar vortex continues to wreak havoc this winter for Canadians, which includes everything from travelling, shovelling and even its effects on your skin.

Amanda Johnson, a licensed esthetician at Interlude Spa in Halifax, says a lot of people's skin can get dry and dehydrated in the winter.

The change of season means it's a good time of year to look at exfoliation or a mask that's specific for your skin type, according to Johnson.

"For sure, a facial or a peel would help so that you can start from scratch and try to undo some of the damage left over from winter. We neglect our skin a little bit in the winter. I find people just don't care as much about the appearance of their skin in the winter." CHRISTINA COPP



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Spring allows local chefs to get their creative juices flowing again with a fresh bounty of food. DOTSHOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Food. Serving up fresh fare

Spring means rejuvenation for a lot of us, and chefs are no different.

For restaurants that use a seasonal menu, chefs are looking forward to fresh produce and are getting ready to sling their spring fare.

"Things I look forward to most are peas and asparagus," said Steve Galvin, restaurant chef for Elements on Hollis. "Around here spring doesn't bring a whole lot, but, generally, the first to come out are spinach, peas and asparagus."

Elements' spring menu will likely arrive during the first week of April. It will feature pan-seared scallops with

peas, Foxhill quark cheese ravioli with a spinach pasta dough, and a spring-onion vinaigrette over a salad of pea shoots and smoked bacon.

"That menu is built with the anticipation that all these things are coming, and once they hit the markets we'll switch to get the local stuff."

The proteins, meat and chicken are fresher in the spring and so is the local had-dock since the boats are running again.

The bulk of the spring bounty doesn't appear until it's almost summer, but there is still a lot to work with.

But when it comes to a

favourite season for cooking, Galvin said he is fond of the fall, when chefs can pick from the variety of produce from the summer, as well as fall vegetables.

"The summer vegetables, like the tomatoes, are all really nice and ripe, but then you're getting all the fall vegetables like squashes coming out," he said.

"Spring is also very nice because you're just so happy to get rid of all the cellared vegetables. That's what spring is, right? That rejuvenation season where your juices start flowing to create again."

JENNIFER TAPLIN

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Spring cleaning. Focus on task at hand

**RICHARD
WOODBURY**
For Metro

There is an old saying that you eat an elephant one bite at a time. When it comes to spring cleaning, you should take a similar approach and do it one room at a time.

"Don't move on until you have finished that one area," said Louise Downs, the owner of The House Whisperer, a cleaning and organizing company. "This gives you focus, which makes the work go faster."

Spring cleaning is all about tackling regular tasks, plus the extras that don't get as much attention throughout the year, such as the windows, blinds, baseboards, lights, fridge, stove and cupboards.

Cupboards around the stove can get especially greasy, so Downs recommends cleaning them with a degreasing solution. After they are washed, line them with newspaper or paper towels so it will make cleaning a breeze the next time around.

She also recommends vac-



Spring cleaning is all about tackling regular tasks, plus the extras that don't get as much attention throughout the year. WAVEBREAKMEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

uuming the floor surfaces because sweeping can send dust into the air.

Spring is also an important

time to organize your home. Part of this process will involve de-cluttering and deciding what to toss, keep or donate.

"If you haven't used something in a year, then you probably aren't going to use it," said Celeste Levy, the owner

of Clutterbug Cleaning and Organizing.

As part of the organizing process, Downs recommends

Fresh look

Once you have finished organizing and cleaning your home, incorporate a few spring items into your home's decor to give it a fresh look.

"I went out on the weekend and picked up some spring placemats, a vase and some tulips to welcome spring," said Celeste Levy, the owner of Clutterbug Cleaning and Organizing.

removing everything from a given space. This will allow you to clean the entire area before moving things back in, but it will also have the added benefit of allowing you to make the most efficient use of the space.

For items that you are storing, consider putting them in storage bins. Clear plastic bins are a good option because you can see what is inside them. If you have opaque bins, Downs recommends labelling them.



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Conversation-starter table toppers



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What goes on top of the books on the coffee table? Here are a few on-trend pieces designed to charm guests

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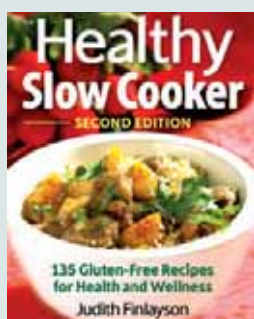
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Slow cooker meal packs protein punch

Cookbook of the Week

Slow and steady wins health race



In the follow-up to the first edition of The Healthy Slow Cooker, Judith Finlayson takes conflicting information about the changing face of dietary guidelines and balances it with a common-sense approach.

All the recipes in the book are deliciously nutrient-dense and have a rounded approach to meet a wide range of needs.

From soups and entrées to desserts, Finlayson uses the slow cooker to show readers how simple healthy eating can be. Among recipes are Easy Paella, Cheesy Grits, Bistro Fish Soup and more. **METRO**

Beef and Chickpea Curry with Spinach.

The Indian-inspired flavours will have your taste buds doing a happy dance

"I like to serve this with brown basmati rice, not only because I like its pleasant nutty flavor but also for its nutritional value," writes Judith Finlayson in her book The Healthy Slow Cooker, Second Edition.

1. In a skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add beef, in batches, and cook, stirring, adding additional oil if necessary, until browned, about 4 minutes per batch. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware.

2. Reduce heat to medium. Add onions to pan and cook, stirring, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add garlic, ginger, peppercorns, cinnamon stick and bay leaf and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add beef stock and bring to a boil.

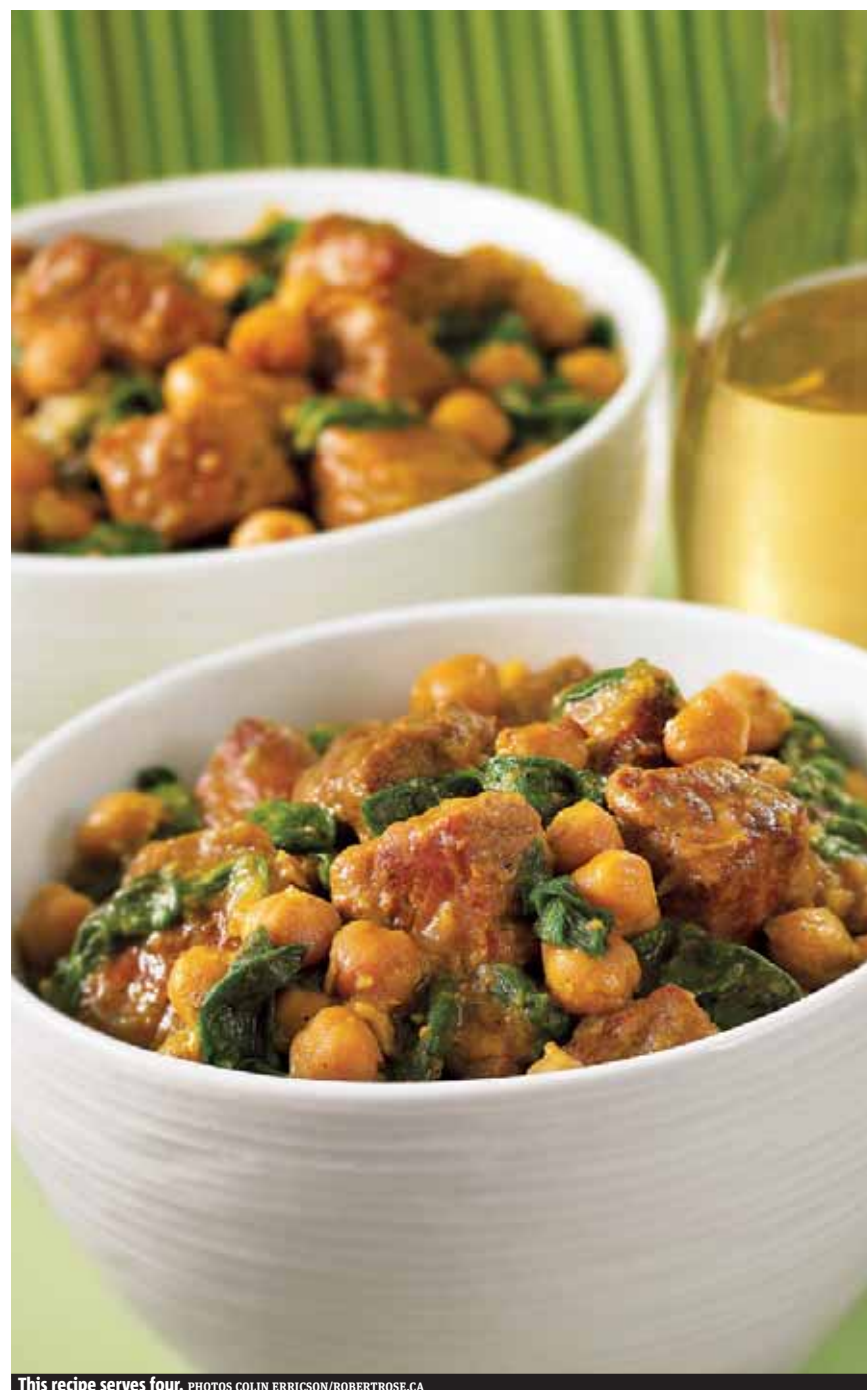
3. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware. Add chickpeas and stir well. Cover and cook on Low for 8 hours or on High for 4 hours, until beef is tender. Add curry powder solution and stir well. Add spinach, in

batches, stirring until each batch is submerged in the curry. Cover and cook on High for 20 minutes, until spinach is wilted. Discard cinnamon stick and bay leaf. Ladle into bowls and drizzle with yogurt, if using.

RECIPES COURTESY THE HEALTHY SLOW COOKER, SECOND EDITION BY JUDITH FINLAYSON, 2014 © ROBERTROSE.CA REPRINTED WITH PUBLISHER PERMISSION.

Ingredients and Tools

- Medium to large (3 1/2 to 5 quart) slow cooker
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) trimmed stewing beef, cut into 1/2-inch (1 cm) cubes
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced gingerroot
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) cracked black peppercorns
- 1 piece (1 inch/2.5 cm) cinnamon stick
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup (250 ml) beef stock
- 2 cups (500 ml) cooked chickpeas, drained
- 1 tsp (5 ml) curry powder, dissolved in 2 tsp (10 ml) freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 lb (500 g) fresh spinach, stems removed
- 1 package (10 oz/300 g) spinach leaves, thawed if frozen
- Plain yogurt, optional



This recipe serves four. PHOTOS COLIN ERRICSON/ROBERTROSE.CA

Appetizer. Spinach and Artichoke Dip

1. In slow cooker stoneware, combine shredded mozzarella, Neufchâtel cheese, Parmesan, garlic, artichokes, spinach and

black pepper. Cover and cook on High for 2 hours, until hot and bubbly. Stir well and serve with homemade tortilla chips.

Ingredients and Tools

- Small to medium (1 1/2 to 3 1/2 quart) slow cooker
- 1 cup (250 ml) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 6 oz (175 ml) Neufchâtel cheese, cubed
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) freshly grated Parmesan
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 can (14 oz/398 ml) artichokes, drained, rinsed and finely chopped
- 8 oz (250 g) trimmed fresh spinach leaves (about 8 cups/2 L)
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) black pepper



This recipe makes about 3 cups (750 ml).

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This introductory guide to creating your own spice blends includes sixteen international recipes and videos on how to dry, roast,



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metro

EXPLORING BAKER DRIVE

Thursday, March 27, 2014

The new ferry christened Christopher Stannix will feature the same design as the current Woodside ferry. TOM MASON/FOR METRO

Launching a significant advantage

In a province known for its boat building prowess, A.F. Theriault and Son Ltd. is something of a legend. The

third-generation, family-owned business has built everything from world-class fishing trawlers to a high-

tech fleet of naval defence target drones in recent years.

Now, the company is

ready to launch the first Halifax/Dartmouth ferry built in 25 years.

The ferry will be christened the Christopher Stannix in honour of the 24-year-old Dartmouth native who lost his life serving in Afghanistan. It will sail out of the Woodside Terminal, giving residents living in the Woodside, Russell Lake West and Eastern Passage areas easy access to downtown.

The new ship will be almost identical in size and appearance to the three ferries now connecting Halifax and Dartmouth. It will carry 399 passengers and crew, and will increase service between Woodside and downtown Halifax to every 15 minutes from every 30 minutes during peak periods.

District 4 Coun. Lorelei Nicoll says the ferry will

Active transportation

"If commuters who use Caldwell Road and Portland Street are able to get to the Woodside Ferry Terminal more quickly it will do a lot to improve active transportation in Dartmouth."

District 4 Coun. Lorelei Nicoll

play a more significant role in HRM's transportation system if the city is able to come to terms with the Department of National Defence and complete the Mount Hope Extension project along a perimeter of land now owned by Shearwater.

"If commuters who use

Caldwell Road and Portland Street are able to get to the Woodside Ferry Terminal more quickly it will do a lot to improve active transportation in Dartmouth," she said.

The new ferry will also improve on one of Baker Drive's major competitive advantages. The new neighbourhood is at the nexus of a transportation system that makes it one of the most accessible areas in HRM. The Mount Hope interchange gives quick and easy access to Highway 111, the bridges to Halifax and to other parts of the province via Highway 102. The development is just minutes away from downtown Dartmouth via Pleasant Street bus routes. Cyclists and walkers can also connect to downtown via the Harbourfront Trail.

TOM MASON

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Millstone Square has become the business and retail centre of Baker Drive. TOM MASON/FOR METRO

Amenities aplenty

TOM MASON
For Metro

From a small feeder road off Dartmouth's Portland Street, Baker Drive has been transformed in the last three years into one of HRM's fastest growing commercial and residential neighbourhoods.

Since the opening of the Mount Hope Extension and Exit 8 three years ago, the area has mushroomed with a variety of mixed residential housing, retail outlets, car dealerships and senior's facilities. The street may also soon include a 14-acre outdoor recreational facility.

Shannex, the retirement living and enhanced-care provider, operates new facilities

on Baker Drive, including Glasgow Hall, a licensed nursing home that provides care for 72 clients. The facility is divided into three 24-room households featuring living and dining rooms, a kitchen and nursing station, with private and semi-private rooms and private washrooms.

Parkland at the Lakes is Shannex's retirement living facility on Baker Drive, one of the newest additions to the "Parkland" brand.

"It's one of a number of Parkland campuses we operate across Nova Scotia and in New Brunswick," said Heather Hanson, Shannex's director of communications and community affairs.

Surrounded by walking trails with easy access to

shopping, a public library and medical centres, Parkland at the Lakes provides a central location for seniors looking for retirement living.

The facility is also packed with amenities including a bowling alley, a movie theatre, fitness centre, entertainment centre and an elegant dining facility and private dining room.

At the other end of Baker Drive, Millstone Square has quickly become the business and retail centre for the area. The 102,000-square-foot neighbourhood office and retail centre is home to Sobeys, Kent Building Supplies, BMO, Lawton's and an Access Nova Scotia facility, along with restaurants, shops, medical offices and other tenants.

Focusing on parks

With the expansion of the Baker Drive area nearing completion, District 3 Coun. Bill Karsten says there is one big piece of the community puzzle still missing.

Karsten says HRM needs to focus on developing parks, sports fields and green spaces for the community.

"Part of the original development agreement for Baker Drive called for HRM to develop parkland," he said.

The agreement called for approximately 10 per cent of the land under development to be set aside for parkland, but Karsten says 10 per cent doesn't mean one large swath of park.

"A lot of times the way that would be done would be to develop little parcels of land into parks, playgrounds and green spaces," he said.

The most significant piece of leftover land is a 14-acre parcel along Baker Drive directly across from the Kent Homes store. The land is mostly cleared field, but HRM staff planted 700 seedlings around the property last fall.

The parcel of land was



One of the last pieces of development left to be completed along Baker Drive. TOM MASON/FOR METRO

originally slated to become a community soccer pitch, something that HRM staff have backed away from in recent months, Karsten said.

"Right now we're asking HRM to do a needs assessment of the community to find out if a soccer pitch is actually what's needed in the community. If the needs assessment says that we need a soccer pitch, then we should develop a soccer pitch. But it doesn't make a whole lot

of sense to develop the land for soccer if the community really needs a baseball diamond or something else. That's something we need to be sure about before we go ahead."

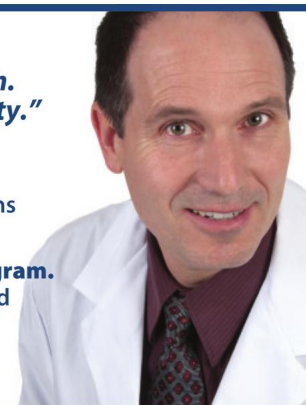
Karsten says the Baker Drive vacant land should be developed as soon as possible, and he would like to see money budgeted for the field development included in HRM's 2015-16 budget.

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A sound investment

TOM MASON
For Metro

Much of the development on Baker Drive occurred due to a local company that has been building communities in HRM since 1959.

Clayton Developments Limited is a subsidiary of the Shaw Group Limited, one of the Nova Scotia's oldest and best known companies. The company is also the driving force behind the Russell Lake West and Baker Drive communities.

Shaw Group created Clayton Developments to build the company's namesake development — Clayton

Park. It was one of HRM's first planned communities and one of the first major developments in the old city of Halifax built off the Halifax peninsula. More than five decades later, Clayton Developments still has a major impact on the growth of HRM. In recent years, it has been responsible for Colby Village, Knightsbridge, Sheffield, Ridgevale, Clayton Park West and Portland Hills, building more than 20,000 homes in the city.

Russell Lake West and the development around Baker Drive is the company's newest project, one of three master-planned communities in HRM (including The Ravines

of Bedford South and the Parks of West Bedford).

HRM Coun. Bill Karsten says it has been Clayton Developments' willingness to invest into the Baker Drive area that has led to the community's rapid development, but he says most of the de-

velopment is nearing completion.

"The buildout of Russell Lake West is two years ahead of schedule," he said. "Everything that's been approved in the development agreement has been built, so I don't see any more development hap-

pening unless new land becomes available."

That new land could come from surplus land located around the Shearwater Air Base, land that was taken off the table by the Department of National Defence in 2008 and is currently part of negotiations

with HRM and developers. Karsten said the best opportunity for expansion in the area would come if an agreement could be reached between HRM and DND to build an extension on Mount Hope Avenue through to Caldwell Road along the edge of Shearwater land.



Despite recent development, much of Russell Lake has been designated as green space. TOM MASON/FOR METRO

Project still under debate

Mount Hope Avenue is a relatively short street that connects the Woodside Industrial Park to Baker Drive.

The last few hundred metres of the street consists of a short strip of divided highway leading to a barricaded dead end, a \$1.5-million road to nowhere. The extension is part of an ambitious project that would connect Baker Drive to Caldwell Road, a project that has been debated for nearly a decade.

In 2006, the federal gov-

ernment declared part of the Shearwater air base located in an area known as "the big runway" as surplus.

The decommissioning of the big runway put plans for the Mount Hope Extension into full swing.

District 3 Coun. Bill Karsten was part of the advisory committee that came up with a development plan for the surplus land. The plan called for a developer, most likely Clayton Developments, to purchase the surplus land and

develop a new subdivision on the property. Most importantly for the city, Karsten said the private developer would have helped to pay for extending Mount Hope Avenue, a project pegged at \$13 million.

"That's how Baker Drive got built. Clayton Developments helped us pay for it."

All the plans came crashing to a halt in 2008, when defence minister Peter MacKay announced DND would be reclaiming the land.

TOM MASON



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Baker Drive has a mix of single-unit and multi-unit housing. TOM MASON/FOR METRO

A unique community

TOM MASON
For Metro

When Exit 8 on Highway 111 opened in the spring of 2011, the new access point paved the way for a major development on Baker Drive.

Three years later, the planned community has become one of HRM's most dramatic new residential developments, a sprawling community that includes a mix of low-density, single-family homes, medium-density townhomes and higher-density condominium and apartment buildings.

The community also features a large commercial plaza called Millstone Square, along with a number of other businesses that encompasses the nearby de-

Variety

"If you look at what we have here, we have a little bit of everything."

Coun. Bill Karsten

velopment of Russell Lake West.

The mixed-use design of the community was one that had become common in cities across North America, but it was new for HRM, said Coun. Bill Karsten (Dartmouth South — Eastern Passage).

"The beautiful part is that the Baker Drive area was planned as a mixed-use development, and the developers have really stuck to that plan," he said. "If you look at what we have here, we have a little bit of everything. We've got retail stores, restaurants,

a building supply store, a car dealer. We've got a wide variety of residential buildings, condos, apartments, seniors' residences, and if you move down toward Russell Lake, we've even got \$500,000 or \$600,000 homes."

Karsten said the area benefits from its central location next to the province's 100-series highway system, close to the Woodside Ferry Terminal and a few minutes from downtown Dartmouth. The Halifax Stanfield International Airport is also easily accessible from Baker Drive.

It's a combination of attributes that makes the Baker Drive area very appealing, Karsten said.

"It's a great place to live, a great place to play and enjoy nature and recreation. And in some cases, it's also a great place to work."

Woodside Park. A business hub for more than 30 years

Baker Drive may be a new development, but the area around Mount Hope and Russell Lake West has been an important business location for a long time.

For three decades, business in the area has focused around the Woodside Industrial Park. The 425-acre park is the home base of Innovacorp's technology incubator and research facility that has spawned some of HRM's smartest and most important technology businesses, including Ocean Nutrition Canada, the world's largest supplier of fish-based omega-3 products, and the world-renowned safety training company Survival Systems Ltd.

Innovacorp is a provincial crown corporation that helps technology-based companies develop their ideas into commercial products and also operates the Woodside business incubator mall to provide an affordable home base for new businesses.

"Our business incubator in Woodside is one of two busi-



The Innovacorp Technology Innovation Centre is a business incubator located inside the Woodside Industrial Park. TOM MASON/FOR METRO

ness incubation facilities we operate in the province, said Charley Baxter, Innovacorp's vice-president of investment. "The other one is located at Dalhousie University. The Woodside facility focuses mainly on IT and on light manufacturing-based businesses."

With some of the most technologically savvy industries in the province and a large concentration of ocean-based business, the Woodside Industrial Park has become a

centre of Metro's ocean technology industry in recent years. The park has a unique attribute — its own 750-foot docking facility on Halifax Harbour — that makes it an attractive location for businesses that depend on access to the ocean.

The park is also home to the Atlantic Petroleum Training College and the Nova Scotia Community College's Aviation Institute.

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Do or die for Rainmen



Halifax Rainmen's Olumuyiwa Famutimi pushes past the Island Storm's Adrian Moss during last Sunday's game at the Metro Centre. JEFF HARPER/METRO

NBL Canada. Halifax needs to regroup, refocus after blowout in Game 5



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

Probably no one is anticipating Game 6 of the NBL Canada semifinal more than Andre Levingston.

Likely, no one was more disappointed than the Halifax Rainmen's owner at seeing his squad go down in flames, 129-90 at the hands of the Island Storm in Game 5 in Charlotte-town on Monday night.

Now, facing elimination on Thursday evening at the Metro Centre, it's do or die with his squad down 3-2 in the best-of-seven series.

"We just didn't match their intensity on Monday," said Levingston. "They did exactly what a team is supposed to do when they bounce back from a loss. They came out and made adjustments. We didn't match their intensity. We found ourselves in a hole early and we couldn't recover."

But in his frustration, Levingston knows one of his squad's biggest strengths is its resiliency and never-say-die attitude.

Coming into the playoffs as the league's second last seed, the Rainmen stepped up in their opening series, shutting down NBL Canada's leading scorer Anthony Anderson and the fifth-seeded Saint John Mill Rats. Now, they stand one

Game 6

Tonight's game at the Metro Centre starts at 7 p.m.

win away of forcing a seventh and deciding game against the fourth-seeded Storm.

"We've bounced back all year," said Levingston. "We weren't supposed to perform well against Saint John. We were not supposed to perform well against P.E.I. But here we are. We know what our guys are capable of."

"We have a good basketball team. Our guys are capable of beating anybody in this league. I like our chances tomorrow; you're going to see a different team than you saw the other night."

Besides Monday's lacklustre effort on both sides of the ball, the Rainmen's offensive leader Jason Williams was essentially shut down, ending up with just four points after carrying the team in a franchise record-setting 41-point performance in Sunday's Game 4 victory at home.

Tim Parham, who averaged double digits in scoring and rebounding all season long for Halifax, was limited to just three points and nine rebounds.

Levingston knows they, and everyone on the Rainmen roster, need to be at their best for Halifax to have a chance.

"We're looking forward to the fans giving us the energy we need," Levingston said. "Our guys are looking forward to the game (Thursday), that's for sure."

Quoted

"We have to come out ready to play from the start."

Rainmen owner Andre Levingston



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Bidding adieu to a mullet for the ages

QMJHL. But not everyone loved Vincent Watt's golden locks



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

His golden monster played witness to a few of Vincent Watt's most memorable hockey achievements.

Likely, that wild sea of blond and red stood on end, for at least a moment, the day the stocky winger was drafted by the Memorial Cup-champion Halifax Mooseheads last summer.

Who knows what it was thinking when Watt made the Herd in training camp, to say nothing of when the pair made its QMJHL debut last fall.

But after two full years as an item, Watt said goodbye ... to all of it, just a couple of weeks ago.

"It doesn't really matter to me, it's just hair," said a stone-faced Watt.

It wasn't just a mullet, though. It was an 'Afro-mullet', a thick, golden mass reaching far and wide in seemingly every direction.

"I felt like it was time for a change, playoffs are here now, you gotta look sharp."

This is true. A place once occupied by one of the greatest, most original mullets ever to hit the Q is now replaced by something shiny but foreign, ordinary even.

Yes, most of his teammates had seen enough. But the



A before and after look at Vincent Watt's mullet. JEFF HARPER/METRO, INSET: ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Spring in broom?

The Halifax Mooseheads will go for a series sweep against the Charlottetown Islanders on Thursday. Game 4 was rescheduled to Thursday from Wednesday in Charlottetown due to weather. The Mooseheads are currently up 3-0 in the best-of-seven series.

ladies hadn't. Well, at least some of them ("50/50, to be honest," admitted Watt.)

What might come as a surprise to most Mooseheads fans is Watt paid little heed to his golden flow. Often times he wouldn't even touch the thing post shower, not even to blow-dry it.

Things got so out of hand his teammates were not only asking, but demanding a trim.

"Big time," said Watt. "Man, all the guys were saying get rid of that hair buddy, it's bad."

Good riddance, says teammate MacKenzie Weegar.

"As far as mullets go I give it a one out of 10," declared

Weegar, who sports a sparkling, raven black mullet of his own. "He didn't keep it groomed. It was puffy, blond and orangey too."

A worthy mullet, Weegar explains, is deserving of care, devotion.

"Mine's a 10," said Weegar. "It's perfect. You can't get any better than mine. I keep my flow well, my hair is my whole body, so I have to treat it as my temple."

Regardless, Watt isn't ruling out a return of the notorious mullet.

Perhaps, next year.

NHL. Leafs hanging off the cliff with 8 games left

There are many questions surrounding the Maple Leafs, namely: How did this happen?

How, in less than two weeks, did a team that was sitting pretty in second place in the Atlantic Division fritter away a three-point lead over the Montreal Canadiens and nine-point advantage over the Detroit Red Wings?

As the players come to grips with the roots of their six-game losing streak, Tuesday's almost-comeback against the St. Louis Blues highlighted a big issue: Why can't the Leafs play with the desperation they show when down two or three goals at the start of games?

"That's the million-dollar question right now," winger James van Riemsdyk said. "It seems like every time we get down we start to ramp it up, and then it's always just a little too little, too late at the end."

It may be too little, too late for the Leafs if they can't figure out how to solve that problem. They're tied at 80 points with the Red Wings, Columbus Blue Jackets and Washington



The Leafs didn't fare much better with James Reimer, left, on the bench and Jonathan Bernier starting on Tuesday night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Capitals but are fourth among those teams for the Eastern Conference's two wild-card spots because they've played the most games (74).

Of course that also means their eight remaining are the fewest among those in the race and there's not much time to figure out slow starts, a central problem during this losing skid. Against the Blues, the Leafs scored first for the first time since March 10, but they also gave up a season-high 23 shots in the opening period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Raps scrape past Celtics in Boston

Terrence Ross scored 24 points, Kyle Lowry 23 and the Toronto Raptors edged closer to their first playoff berth since 2008 with a 99-90 win over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night.

DeMar DeRozan added 20 points for Toronto, which increased its Atlantic Division lead to 2 1/2 games over Brooklyn, which lost in Charlotte.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis

Djoker pulls fast one on Murray

Novak Djokovic benefited from an erroneous call and claimed he didn't realize he had broken the rules. When Andy Murray walked to the net and challenged him about it, Djokovic responded with a shrug and a sheepish smile.

Murray lost the dispute, and the match. The pivotal ruling helped Djokovic win 7-5, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the Sony Open.

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Graham DeLaet of Weyburn, Sask., plays a shot on the second hole during the first round of the World Golf Championships in Marana, Ariz., on Feb. 19. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

DeLaet on course for mastery at Augusta

PGA. Canadian golfer not daunted by first bid for Green Jacket

Graham DeLaet won't be so much in awe of Augusta National Golf Club when he makes his Masters debut next month.

The native of Weyburn, Sask., made a trip to the fabled golf course last week. Although bad weather prevented him from playing a full round, he did walk the par-72, 7,435-yard layout and make mental notes regarding the lay of the land.

"It was drizzly rain and cold the first day and it was pretty tough on my body to swing in that kind of cold with that many layers on," DeLaet said during a conference call Wednesday. "But it was still very worthwhile to go and see the course ... and kind of get the 'wow' factor out of the way. It (the course) was pretty much

perfect."

An ardent television viewer of past Masters tournaments — including Canadian Mike Weir's 2003 championship — DeLaet said actually walking the course was a learning experience.

And from what DeLaet saw, he has the game to potentially succeed at Augusta.

"I do feel the golf course suits my game pretty well," he said. "I mean, it's a big golf course.... You have to drive it well and hit your irons precisely."

On Tuesday, Weir, of Bright's Grove, Ont., told reporters he felt DeLaet, 32, could contend at Augusta.

"I think Graham obviously has the type of game that can do very well there," Weir said. "He hits it long, he hits it very high."

DeLaet said he always has butterflies when he hits his first tee shot to officially open a tournament. But having played previously in the British Open

as well as last year's President's Cup, DeLaet feels he knows what to expect heading into his first Masters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Graham's great start

The five-foot-11, 165-pound DeLaet is enjoying a solid start to the PGA season.

- **In the hunt.** He's recorded five top-10 finishes, including two second-place efforts, and made the cut in eight of nine tournaments.

- **Ranking.** DeLaet stands 15th in the FedExCup standings.

- **Money talks.** He has already won more than \$1.6 million US this season and last season earned \$2.8 million and enjoyed seven top-10 finishes.

OHL

Stick-swinging ban for Knights goaltender

London Knights goaltender Anthony Stolarz has been suspended eight games for swinging his stick at the head of Windsor Spitfires forward Josh Ho-Sang, the Ontario Hockey League team announced Wednesday.

In the first period of London's incident-filled 10-2 victory in Game 3 of their first round series on Tuesday night, Ho-Sang jabbed his stick at the goaltender after a play at the net. As the Spitfires star skated away, Stolarz took a one-handed swing with his stick and hit Ho-Sang on the back of the head. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Knights goaltender Anthony Stolarz TERRY WILSON/OHL IMAGES

Sochi 2014. High-flying freestylers touch down

It's been a whirlwind couple of months for Mikael Kingsbury that included winning an Olympic silver medal and capturing his third consecutive overall World Cup title.

Now the Canadian moguls skier can't wait to put his feet up.

"I'm a Habs fan. I love hockey," Kingsbury said. "The thing I'm most excited for is to have a full day off, have a chance to sit on my couch with a beer, because we don't drink much during the World Cup circuit."

But first, there are interviews and public appearances and the Canadian freestyle championships this weekend at Apex Resort in Penticton, B.C.

Kingsbury, and moguls sisters Justine, Chloe and Maxime Dufour-Lapointe — among Canada's biggest stories at the Sochi Olympics — finally touched down on Canadian soil on Tuesday, and did the media rounds in Toronto on Wednesday.

The foursome was at Ryerson University to be honoured by Toronto Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly.

Justine Dufour-Lapointe won moguls gold at the Sochi Olympics, while 22-year-old sister Chloe captured silver, and the image of the Montreal sisters holding hands before stepping onto the medal podium will be one of the most enduring images of the Games.

Maxime, 25, was 12th in Sochi.

Last week, the sisters finished second through fourth in the season's overall World Cup moguls standings; Justine finished second, followed by Chloe and Maxime.

Kingsbury, a 21-year-old from Deux-Montagnes, Que., finished second to Canadian teammate Alexandre Bilodeau at the Sochi Olympics, then claimed his third straight Crystal Globe as the season World Cup winner.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A warm welcome

"Today is our first day, 24 hours in Canada, so I think it's starting to hit us, realizing the impact we created."

Canadian Olympian Justine Dufour-Lapointe reacts to her family's performance in Sochi.



Desperate Canucks answer call of the Wild

Vancouver Canucks' left wing David Booth reacts after scoring a second-period goal on Minnesota Wild goalie Darcy Kuemper during NHL action in St. Paul, Minn., on Wednesday. The Canucks won 5-2 and kept their slim hopes of qualifying for this year's Stanley Cup playoffs alive with the victory. Vancouver travels to Denver for a must-win game against the Colorado Avalanche on Thursday. **ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Hopefully you will see solutions today where before you saw only problems. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to money matters and business already that involve other people. Together you can make a profit and have fun.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Do you get involved in a feud between friends? You know the answer already, so don't be silly and stand between them to try to keep the peace. If you do, they will gang up on you.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

If you can get someone else to do some of your chores for you today then go for it. You have more important matters to take care of and you may not have energy to spare.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Others can sense your self-confidence and because of that they want to do things for you. Who are you to refuse any offers? It will give you more time to work on a creative project.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

If you need help over the next 24 hours come out and ask for it. If you wait for others to realize that you require assistance chances are you will never get it. They can't read your mind.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You will find it easy to express yourself today and, more importantly, others will find it easy to understand you. If you are involved in a creative pursuit this is also a good time to impress important people.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You'll hear something to your benefit today but your suspicious nature could hold you back from taking advantage. Unless there's evidence someone is trying to trick you, take a chance.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You'll find it easy to work out what is going on in someone's mind today, which in turn will help you decide what you should do next. You see the kind of body language that other people miss.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

It's not like you to withdraw into your shell but you may do so over the next 24 hours. That's OK. You have important issues to decide on and you won't think straight if there is too much noise around you.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

No matter how busy you may be work wise, make an effort to free up some time to spend with your loved ones. They are the people who really matter.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

A remark you toss out into the conversation may not be meant in a negative way but that's how one person may take it. If they do seem offended let them know that you meant no harm.

Pisces

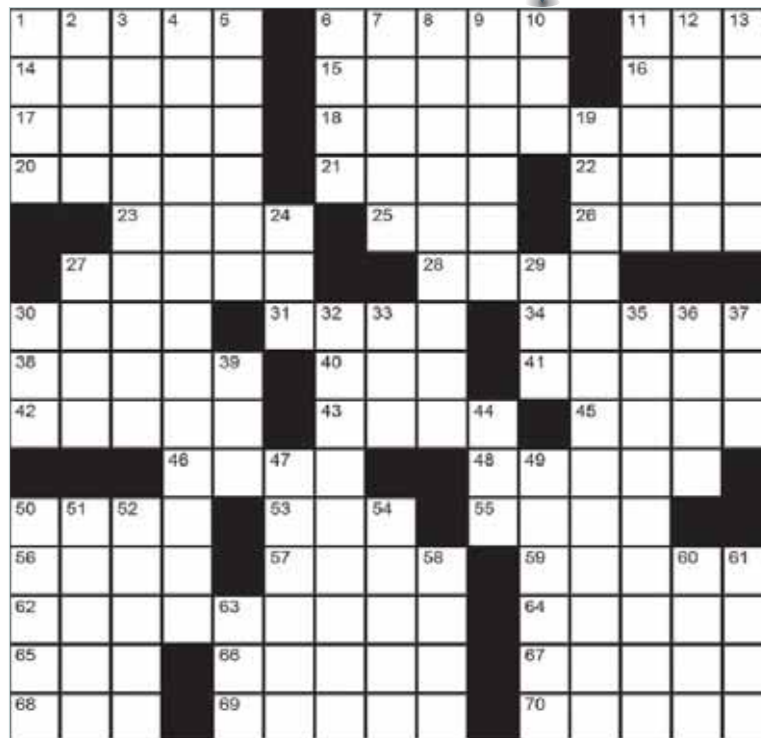
Feb. 20 - March 20

Something will happen today that makes you wonder if there is more going on behind the scenes. Make it your business to find out why certain people are acting so strangely—and use what you discover for your own advantage. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Crockett's "Miami Vice" partner
- Mythological blood
- Do
- ___ ease (Jittery)
- Canadian specialty channel
- ___ constrictor
- Q. "John, George and Ringo ...who's missing?" A. "___, ___ think!"
- Lawyer's briefcase items, briefly: 2 wds.
- Fishhook line
- Oohs' pals
- Funny person
- ___ buckle
- Traveller's li'l way
- Other
- Archie's jalopy, Ol' ___
- Furniture store
- Jeanne ___
- Actress Tara
- Google service
- "The Jetsons" character
- Boot bit
- Hog
- Self-congratulatory exclamation!: 2 wds.
- English river
- Medieval chest
- "No ___!" (Casual response to "Thanks.")
- Flashlight precursor
- Dad
- Nothing
- Certain currency
- Cook's need



67. Country's Mr.

Adkins

68. Tricky

69. Publicity

70. Flower sort

Down

1. Points

2. Mongolia city, ___

Bator

3. Oxford, NS: The ___

Capital of Canada'

4. The 'Royal Win-

nipeg', for one, in

dance: 2 wds.

5. Neil Young band-

mate, Stephen ___

6. Island: Spanish

7. Exonerate

8. The Bay of Fundy

is world famous for

them: 2 wds.

9. Ric of The Cars

10. Fam. member

11. Heated up, as in

cooking

12. Ms. Chanel's

13. Preference

19. 'And Now the

Legacy Begins'

Hip-Hop greats from

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- Toronto: 2 wds.
24. Norse god of strife
27. Community in The Muskokas in Ontario that has an annual cranberry festival
29. For instances, for short
30. Actress Susan
32. Where Mayor of Toronto Rob Ford was born
33. Promissory note
35. That which Canadian ace Billy Bishop had to engage in during WWI: 2 wds.
36. Length measure
37. Grassland
39. "___ Blues" by The Beatles
44. Printemps fol-lower
47. GM car safety system
49. Alanis Morissette's: "You ___ Know"
50. Showy showings
51. Be of service
52. A brother of Ron Weasley's in 'Harry Potter' books
54. 17th-century English composer, Henry ___
58. Scientific 'strands'
60. Immobilizing spray
61. Power [abbr.]
63. "Plush" rock gr.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	6	2	3	8	5	7	9
5	9	3	6	7	1	4	2	8
7	2	8	9	5	4	1	6	3
3	7	5	4	8	6	9	1	2
8	6	1	5	2	9	3	4	7
9	4	2	7	1	3	8	5	6
1	3	7	8	6	5	2	9	4
6	8	4	1	9	2	7	3	5
2	5	9	3	4	7	6	8	1

	4		5					
		9		2				3
		7		1	6	8	5	
		6						2
	9	5		3		1	8	
4						9		
	1	4	2	6		3		
2				8		6		
				5		7		

Today

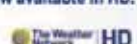


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